Adams dairymen visit Cumberland

GETTYSBURG - "The was the best investment we've made since we started farming!" This statement by Donald Thrush of Thrush Brothers Dairy Farm, R1 Shippensburg, assessing the value of a computerized feeding system was typical of the frank sharing of opinions and experiences which took place Thursday, July 12, when a busload of Adams County dairy farmers toured six dairy farms in Cumberland County. Thrush attributed the value to a savings in feed since the feeder is programmed to deliver feed in response to milk production.

Thrush Brothers milk 107 cows

and feed corn silage, haylage and high moisture shelled corn. They have been using the computerized feeder since February, 1984. Four feeding stations are programmed to provide feed eight times in 24 hours when activated by a transponder on the cow's neckchain.

The Creedin Cornman herd of 71 dairy animals at 721 Lindsey Road, Carlisle, first stop on the tour, features 52 descendants of Vista-Grande Admiral Trixie. The last cow purchased for this herd was in 1964, most are home bred.

Jack Sunday's Vallilea Farms near Mechanicsburg illustrates the influence on fast paced land development. Forced to relocate because of highway contruction and subsequent industrial development, Sunday now maintains a 320-cow herd in a modern drive-through barn which features headgates, a manure storage and automatic takeoffs in the milking parlor.

The herd is maintained in four groups for feeding on basis of production. Feed for the herd and some surplus for sale comes from 450 acres of corn, 200 acres of alfalfa and 200 acres of small grains. "Breeding problems and foot and leg trouble leads to a 30 percent annual culling rate," Sunday said.

The Tom Sheaffer herd at R5, Carlisle, features 19 animals classified "Excellent" for type and

a collection of ribbons which testify to his success in the show ring. Scheaffer is interested in embryo transplants and in the improving proof of Huntsdale Partner, a sire from his herd which is now is use in the artifical insemination industry.

After lunch, served by the auxiliary at the Huntsdale Fire Company, the group visited the Leroy Showaker Family at R4, Newville. This 78 cow herd contains 7 cows classified "Excellent". We breed for type, feed for milk," Showaker said.

Galen Smith at R5, Shippensburg, demonstrated the danger incurred by maintaining a bull in the farm. He is recovering from injuries received when attacked by the bull on May 27, 1984.

Manure from the 125-cow herd is stored in a "Slurrystore" system and is injected into the soil at planting time. Smith noted that organic matter content is rising, soil condition has improved, and the amount of purchased nitrogen has been significantly reduced since he converted to this system of handling liquid manure.

The tour was organized by County Agent Thomas E. Piper and David Kehr, chairman of the Tour Committee for the Adams County Holstein Association. Adams County Dairy Princess Carol Clowney and Alternate Princess Carol Hobaugh accompanied the group. Duane G. Duncan, Cumberland County Extension Director served as tour guides.

Fairs to get funds

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell has announced that 20 county fairs across the state will receive checks totaling a record \$454,254.80 from the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes Fund this summer.

The Pennsylvania Sire Stakes Fund, which is funded by harness racing revenues, was established in 1968 to stimulate the state's standardbred horse breeding industry. Money from the fund is used to reimburse fairs and Parı-Mutual tracks for purses in sire stakes races.

According to Hallowell, the only horses eligible for sire stakes races are those sired by stallions standing in Pennsylvania. "This encourages the purchase and breeding of Pennsylvania horses,' he said.

Ben Mader, Executive Secretary of the State Harness Racing Commission, said that each of the 20 racing fairs will receive a check for \$22,712 from the Sire Stakes Fund this year.

The racing fairs include the Lycoming County Fair, Butler County Fair, Troy Fair, Clearfield County Fair, Greene County Fair, Wayne County Fair, Bedford County Fair, Washington County Fair, McKean County Fair, Huntingdon County Fair, Dayton Fair, Crawford County Fair, Carbon County Fair, Indiana County Fair, Wattsburg Fair, Stoneboro Fair, Juniata County Fair, York Inter-State Fair, Gratz Fair and the Bloomsburg Fair.

Hallowell said, "County fairs are important in the state's rural heritage, both as showplaces and proving grounds for our farm families. They bring together all segments of our population and provide opportunities to gain a better understanding of farm life and rural Pennsylvania.

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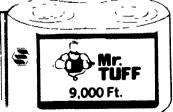
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