

Gerrilynn

(Continued from Page A34)

cows come in for grain, and a 40-percent protein concentrate is also balanced in with the other rations.

High moisture shelled corn was a new taste for these cows' palates this fall. Wolf acknowledges that the butterfat level did take a drop, but a buffer program is being balanced and fat averages have again turned back uphill.

Each cow gets careful attention and individual feed weights, based on DHIA, her age and size. Heifers milking ninety pounds or over and there are several - earn extra helpings.

Wolf's production goals call for animals with appetites, and he's quick to admit an affinity for big cows. Much of the credit for his appreciation for capacious, growthy milkers he gives to Herman Stebbins, former manager of the nationally known Sinking Springs herd north of York.

"You can milk a big cow with a big udder. But try to milk a little cow with a big udder," is Wolf's "big cow" reasoning. "You can also cross a smaller bull to a big cow, and still come up with a sizeable animal."

Heifers here are well grown, bred to freshen between the ages of

22 and 24 months. While milk production is the prime goal at Gerrilynn, and slackers depart for auction unless they show plenty of future promise, type isn't ignored. In the most recent classification, the herd finished with an official B.A.A. of 101.2, and 3 Excellents, 10 Very Goods and 25 Good Plus on the score sheets.

A total of five Excellents have developed from the Gerrilynn breeding lines, with one presently in the herd. She's an Elevation, from an Ivanhoe Star, scored 90-2E, but went Excellent at just four years of age.

Two other Excellents just recently were culled due to problems. One, a 13-year-old, was a 90-2E Topper, and the other a 90-point Kit Builder, also out of an Ivanhoe Star. A ten-year-old, 91-3E, Gay Ideal daughter was lost about a year ago.

"Ivanhoe Star has been good for our herd," asserts Wolf of the popular former Atlantic Breeders son. After seeing Ivanhoe Star daughters at a sale many years ago, and being extremely impressed with their size and scale, Wolf came home and started heavy use of the Lancaster cooperative's bull.

About ninety percent of the present herd now carry Star somewhere in their pedigree generation or two back.

Bulls come under close scrutiny before being fitted into the herd mating program, and must meet Wolf's specifications for both milk and fat, plus carry desirable udder and feet characteristics.

Sires currently in use include Valiant, Chairman, Sol, Dairyman and Jet Stream. One Jet Stream two-year-old in the herd is milking over 90 pounds. Wolf also used Marvex heavily, and has several extremely tall, milky daughters of Atlantic sire.

While Wolf has purchased an occasional herd daughter, selling breeding stock is not his reason for being in the dairy business.

"I figure I have to keep the best if I want to get anywhere."

Nor does Wolf aspire to own a gigantic spread of acreage. The original purchase included 85 acres, and six years ago he and Gerry bought an adjoining 29 that came up for sale. Additional land, adjoining the farm is rented, for a total in crops of about 200, providing enough acres to amply feed the herd.

"I like to work with cows, not machinery," says Wolf, summing up his feelings about expanded cropping plans.

Truly a family operation, all five of the Wolf family members can generally be found working together to complete whatever needs doing, from milking and feeding to putting away hay.

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