Gerrilynn

(Continued from Page A34)

cows come in for grain, and a 40percent 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

"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 vears 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 90point 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.

WALLS OF IN ...chandised an occasional herd daughter, seming 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.

One full-time employee, Danny Rogers, started working with Wolf as a high-school student, and elected to stay full-time after graduation. He's a grandson of the farm's previous owner, and like the Wolf family members, can "do anything needed" around the barn and fields.

Chris, the Wolf's oldest daughter, is 18 and a history major at York College. She's considering a career in that field, possibly in a historical museum position. Sixteen-year-old Debbie, a junior at Spring Grove, is still undecided about her future plans after high

school. Both have been 4-H dairy club members and exhibited their animals at both local and more advanced junior shows.

Brad, 6, is in first grade and the self-appointed overseer of the assorted barn cats, while lending a hand at whatever barn chores he can handle.

As the night grows late, and traffic outside the barn on Route 30 slows from the hectic daytime pace, lights around the barn may go on one last time. It's probably Wolf, making one final round, just to make sure that none of his highproducing girls go to bed hungry.

Johnes session scheduled

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS Staff Correspondent

HAMBURG -Dairy cattle breeders interested in producing better milk and healthier animals are invited to hear Dr. Whitlock, professor from the University of Pennsylvania, discuss Johnes disease and other contagious diseases at a dinner meeting on Thursday, Dec. 13. Sponsored by the Hi-Protein Breeders of Southeastern Pennsylvania, the dinner-meeting will be held at Schmecks Diner, Rt. 61, south of Hamburg, at 7:30 p.m.

Beginning with dinner on your own, dairymen can become acquainted and trade ideas on the

solutions for their troubled industry. Reports and updates on the current efforts of the Hi-Protein Breeders to upgrade standards and promote a "better" milk will also be given. After dinner, Dr. Whitlock will be on hand to discuss contagious diseases which dairymen should be concerned about and answer questions on current research.

Everyone interested in producing and promoting a better product is encouraged to attend. For more information on joining he HI-Protein Breeders or directions to attend the meeting, call: William Zollers, Mertztown, 682-7880; or Dr. Robert C. Dreisbach, Hamburg 562-3242.

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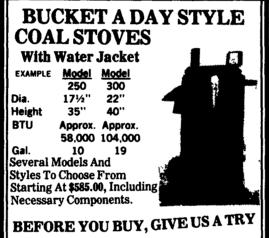
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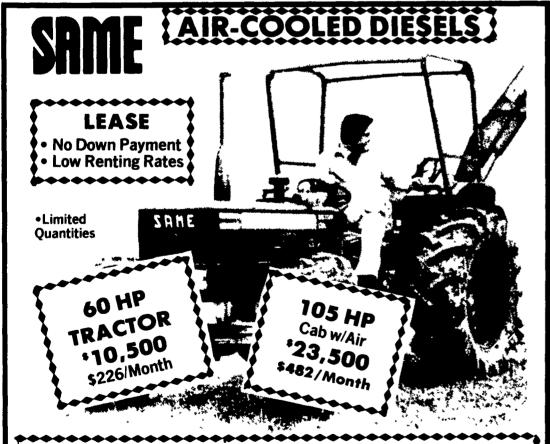
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