

"The little things" lead to success for Bendy Brook

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OLEY — Berks County is home to many successful dairymen and their great producing cows. Featured are many Grand Champions, Gold Medal dams, Hall of Fame cows, and many investor animals.

But this story is not about them. This story features a young dairy couple and their herd of 46 registered Holsteins. In the dairy business since 1976, Nevin and Audrey Mast and their Bendy Brook Holsteins have surpassed all the herds in Berks County. Their efforts in climbing to the top of the

Top of the DHIA roll



Nevin, Audrey, and Kerwin Mast look over their latest DHIA records.

Pete daughter



Nevin Mast stands with one of his favorites, a two-year-old Pete daughter.

1984 DHIA roll succeeded without a lot of money, illustrious facilities, or expensive breeding stock.

"It's a lot of little things," states Nevin Mast, R1, Oley, about the success of his high producing herd. Bendy Brook Holsteins completed 1984 with a herd average of 22,120 pounds milk, 818 pounds butterfat, and 710 pounds protein. With this average, they topped all herds in milk and protein production and came in second place in fat production.

What are the "little things" that Mast refers to? He feeds his cows often—six times a day. Without the benefit of a TMR system, Mast believes if you keep the feed fresh, the cows will eat more. He feeds three of the feedings in his stanchion barn and the other feedings at an outside bunk.

"We try to get as much haylage in them as possible," Mast adds, "and we always feed grain with the haylage." "Feeding often also gets you to look at the cows more," he admits, because problems are noticed sooner.

"We try to make the best quality forage," Mast continues. "I think how you put it up makes a lot of difference." And Audrey adds, "he likes to chop it up late at night when the dew is on so that he can keep the leaves."

Because he thinks quality forages are so important to top production, Mast only maintains forage equipment and leaves the rest of the field work to custom farmers. He also utilizes a sealed storage silo, "because I believe in good haylage." His 110 acres are

(Turn to Page A19)

Better replacements



Mast's oldest son, Kerwin, stands with him at the individual calf housing.

Good, sound cow



Bendy Brook Hank Frosty is one of the "good, sound cows" in the Mast herd. She is scored VG-85 and produced over 22,000 as a four-year-old. Her current projection at five years of age is 25,606 lbs. milk and 898 lbs. fat.

Broad spectrum of protein



Mast likes to feed crimped, roasted soybeans.

Berks dairy



Bendy Brook Farm is a modest farm in the outskirts of Oley.