

# Bendy Brook Holsteins

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planted in alfalfa and corn, and the corn is used as corn silage for heifers.

"It's hard for us to keep our energy up since we're not feeding corn silage," Mast says. Instead, he has had great success feeding crimped, roasted soybeans. "We like to feed a broad spectrum of protein. We feed half beans, half 32%," he states. "I like the beans crimped instead of ground. They eat them better. If you don't have a lot of fine things, the cows clean up better," Mast maintains. He adds that he tried feeding animal fat too, but "my test really drops."

Mast has also adjusted his dry cow program so that his cows are ready after freshening to add to that high rolling herd average. Dry cows get corn silage and hay. They are housed in an open, loose-housing barn, and have access to free choice minerals. Two weeks before their due date, they are brought into the barn and adjusted to the milking ration. Mast makes sure that all his cows get that 60-

day dry period. Dry treatment to udders is only used as needed for that particular cow.

"I believe exercise is good for the cows," Mast also states. This is the reason his dry cows are allowed in an open building and his milking herd also gets outside and fed at a bunk feeder daily. "I think it's good to feed both ways," he says of his system.

Mast's management plan also includes calf hutches. "They're the best investment we ever made," he says. "We can raise better replacements."

The "better replacements" are the reason Mast can utilize another fine management practice. "We cull really hard," he states. "We didn't increase the size of our herd, we just culled harder."

He goes on to explain his point system for culling. If they don't make 15,000 to 17,000 pounds of milk as two-year-olds; do not have production with test; have poor type, or a tendency for mastitis, then we cull them, he states. "We just don't mess around with them if

they don't do well."

Mast started out on his own in 1976 after working six years on the Caernavon Farm of Andrew Stoltzfus, Morgantown. "That's where I got my training," Mast says. Bendy Brook Farm was purchased from Mast's father, who had to move to Arizona for health reasons, after Mast's uncle who had been renting it sold out.

Mast explained that he had several cows, calves, and heifers from his 4-H and FFA projects and tried to buy "good sound animals" to start his herd. "John Stoltzfus helped me to buy some of my better stock," he adds.

"I'm not looking for an excellent cow," Mast explains about his eye for good dairy stock, "Just a good sound animal with good test." Currently, Mast believes in "breeding up the herd instead of buying in."

"I do my own breeding," Mast says. "I look at the weakest point and go from that. We breed for butterfat. She's got to have production with test," he continues. Bulls from the top of the current TPI list are used and high

repeatability bulls are desired. Pete and Valiant are two bulls that Mast holds great respect for because of their genetic advancement of the breed.

With his herd average over 20,000 pounds of milk for the past several years, Mast is not content to rest on this latest achievement. "Success isn't measured by what you are, but by what you could be," he says. "I think they could do so much better. And there's so many areas where I need improvement."

"Efficiency is something I have to work at constantly," he says

smiling. "I also encourage anyone to further their education," Mast says, and adds that he enjoys studying short courses in agriculture when they are offered and also takes part in the programs that the Extension Service sponsors each year.

With his wife, Audrey, who loves helping out with the field work, and his three young sons, ages six years, two years, and four months, gathered around him, Mast concludes, "I'm really a servant. I like giving credit to the Lord." We're thankful for what we have.

## Financial Management

The first of two farm financial management workshops, to help farmers prepare their farm financial plans for 1985, will be held Friday, Jan. 4 at the Cumberland County Extension Building, 1100 Claremont Road, Carlisle. The second workshop is scheduled for Jan. 11.

The Jan. 4 session will run from 9:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. and will

address the following issues: Taking control of your farm business, Know what you own.

"What is it worth?" "What is the farm worth?" "Know what you owe, "What are you worth?" and "is the farm business making a profit?"

Reservations should be made by Jan. 1 with the Cumberland Co. Extension Office.



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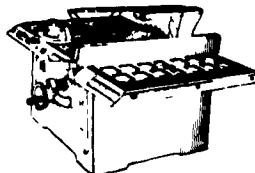
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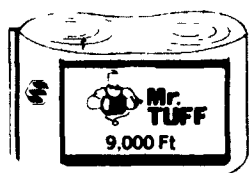
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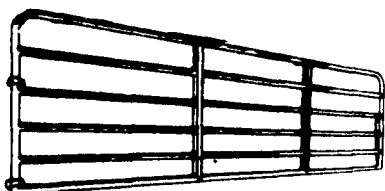


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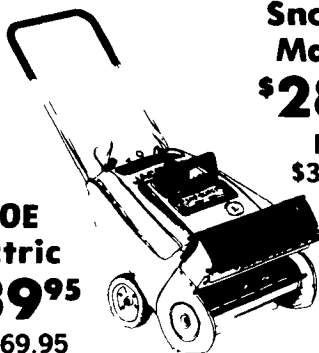
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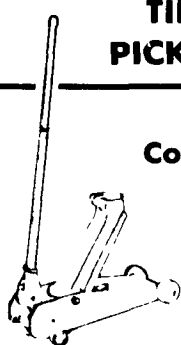
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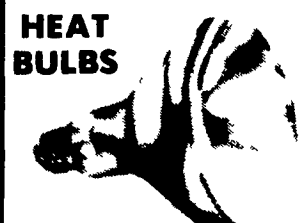
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