



Craig pauses before looking over his records and selecting a service sire to use in his herd.

## Rhein family

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recently finished with 17,629 milk, 5.3% test, 948 fat, and 639 protein. A homebred herdmate, "Veda," topped the herd with 20,174 milk, 4.7% test and 948 pounds fat as a 7-year-old. Another homebred animal, "Daisy," produced 21,655 milk and 879 fat.

The milking chores are taken care of by Mrs. Rhein. "She enjoys milking," Craig says about his mother. Brother Terry, takes care of the machinery, and Craig's wife, Carmen, "milks at night and whenever needed."

Except for problem cows and heifers, the entire herd is A.I. bred by Craig. With the end product in mind, Rhein uses bulls only from the top of the list. Top Brass, Magic, Poet, Volunteer, and Nippersink are all in heavy service in the herd right now. "With better genetics," Rhein adds, "I really think production will climb."

As president of the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Club, Rhein has definite ideas on milk pricing, too. "End product pricing is something that every breeder should vote for," he states.

After the initial production jump, it wasn't until after they followed other advice from Dreisbach that the herd average again climbed. "He said this way might help," Craig says. In September of 1983, a timer switch was installed on the lights in the barn. Lights are on from nine to 11 in the evening and then again from one to three in the early morning hours. Milking starts at five a.m. and the cycle repeats. "It gets them up and they really seem to eat a lot of hay," Rhein says.

The main reason for culling at Meadow View Farm is because of



Dawn Rhein is the chief milker at the farm.

broken down udders in older cows or bad feet. "There's so few bulls on the high list with good feet," Rhein complains. He also watches the strength of a cow when selecting a service sire, too. "It's something we have to improve," he adds.

The Rhein's plan to increase cow numbers up to 100 cows by 1987. "There's three of us working on the farm," Rhein states, "70 cows is

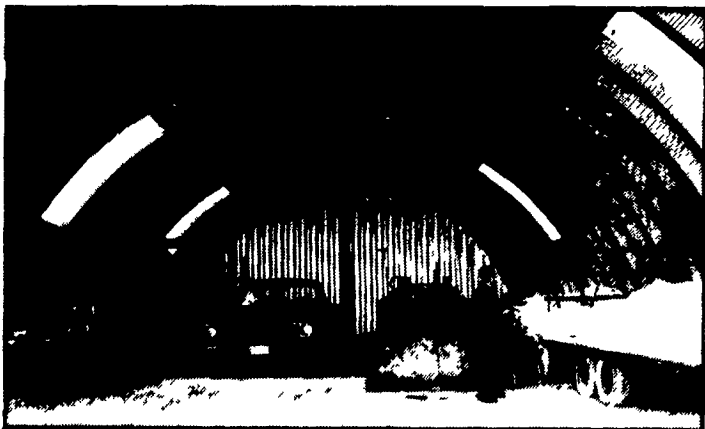
kind of low." They also have the feed and storage for 100 cows, he adds.

Rhein is also looking ahead with "better genetics" to achieve about 14,000 pound herd average. "We've got about what we want (in bloodlines)," Rhein comments.

According to this dairyman, "It's the combination of both, milk and protein...the end product," that makes a herd profitable.

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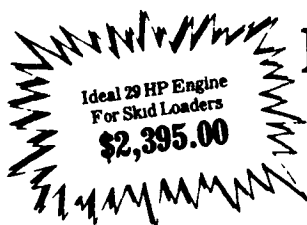
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