ved with dry cow housing



Richard, left, Rodney and Robert Smyser admire the undisputed herd favorite and high producer, Richlawn Triune Dixie Darcy. More individual care for cows such as this 30,000 pound producer was the impetus for constructing the dry barn.

20,600 milk and 760 fat. Type is not neglected, and last year's B.A.A. was 103.

Combining both milk and type is the current high producer and queen, at the moment, of the dry cow facility. Richlawn Triune Dixie Darcy is EX-93-3E and topped the herd last year with her 365-day lactation of over 30,000 milk and 1,000 fat.

Although ET attempts on this prized home-bred have been unsuccessful, Darcy will calve naturally in late summer after just having been turned out into the dry cow barn. Her four daughters already milking in the Smyser

three scored Good Plus, one classifying 83 as a heifer.

Better care of cows such as these has always interested the Smyser dairymen. Richard, who helped milk a dozen head of mixed grades here as a boy, returned to take over the home farm in 1946. He and his wife, Marie, brought their herd of 28 from his grandfather's farm near Shiloh, where they had been dairying for six years.

The barn only had one cementfloored stall when they moved home, used for milking. Richard's initial remodeling put cement under two of the crosswise rows of

herd include one Very Good and the stalls. In the early 1960's, a more drastic remodeling saw the crosswise stalls converted to lengthwise rows for 30 head, with the cows faced out and a milking alleyway down the center.

When Robert and Rodney, the fifth generation on the farm, came into the partnership in 1971, size was more than doubled, to 66 head, with an addition built to the back of the ground level of the old barn. Also installed was the innovative manure handling system, with wastes run from the gutter into a 6 x 12 x 8 pit, then moved by hydraulic pump to a storage up on the hill behind the barn.

Even that's been modified recently, with the addition of a Flyght chopper pump, which chops

bedding material and solid manure, mixing it with milkhouse (Turn to Page A24)



Wastes, both manure and milkhouse water, are mixed in a receiving pit and pumped to a wooden-fenced, in-ground pit on the hill above the barn. To empty the storage, the Smysers need only back in their spreader to this gravity unloading mechanism.

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