

## Del Val earns national Brown Swiss award

DOYLESTOWN — The Delaware Valley College Brown Swiss herd has been named the 1984 Ira Inman PTPR winner for Group I.

The Ira Inman Production and Type Performance Registry (PTPR) herd trophies are presented to the top herds in each of three herd size divisions. Group I is for herds containing 10-39 cows.

The formula for calculating the winners of these awards is based on six criteria: 1) actual herd lactation butterfat average; 2) actual herd lactation milk average; 3) herd classification average for final score; 4) percent of cows in the herd bred by owner; 5) percent of cows in the herd having 305-day lactation records processed during the year; and 6)

number of years on DHIR test.

The awards are presented annually at the National Brown Swiss Meeting.

The Delaware Valley College Brown Swiss herd currently numbers 12 cows, 4 yearlings and 5 calves. Corn silage and alfalfa haylage are the basic ration for cows at Del. Val. Both are fed from Harvestore silos. Cows are fed on a blended mixture of haylage and corn silage via an electric feed cart at about 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., free choice (5% over intake). Grains are fed at 3:00 a.m., 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. The cows receive about 6 pounds of hay per day. In the summer months they are turned out on an exercise pasture at night.

The Delaware Valley College

farm has 750 acres, 350 tillable. corn silage, alfalfa, clover, timothy and some small grain are raised. Income comes mostly from the sale of milk, with the sale of breeding stock providing a small percentage.

The herd is under the jurisdiction of James Harner, superintendent of dairy, and Jim Quartuccio, herd supervisor.

Since this is a college herd, much of the labor force is made up of students. In 1983, the College established student herdsman positions to provide more in-depth dairy and herd management training experience. Upperclass students are responsible for daily chores, Monday through Friday, and selected weekends. This includes day-to-day management of

the herd and facilities.

From Sept. 15 through Dec. 15, each student in the Senior Techniques class manages a cow. The students develop a ration for their cow which is fed after approval by Larry Morris, Assistant Professor of Dairy Husbandry. Students are involved in milking, heat detection and clean-up, to name just a few.

At the end of the semester a

large portion of their grade is determined by income over feed cost and income over total costs which include the lease cost, vet bills and breeding fees.

The staff at Delaware Valley College is thrilled that their students have had the pride in their program to improve their management skills to such a degree the herd has received state and now national recognition.



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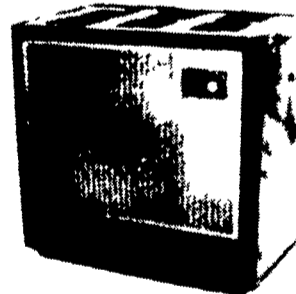
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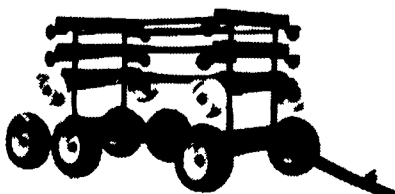
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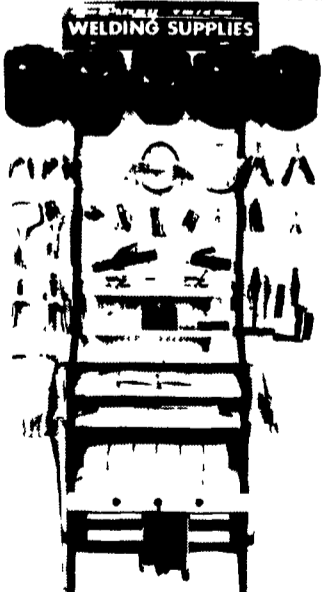
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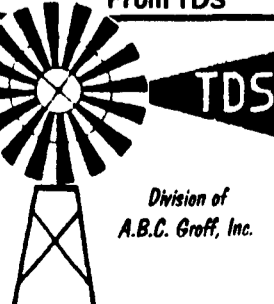
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