

Mertz Brothers cop Berks DHIA awards

By **ROBIN PHILLIPS**
Staff Correspondent

KUTZTOWN — A new name at the top of the list, new awards, and additional incentives were the highlights of the annual awards banquet of Berks County DHIA Association.

Held at the Kutztown Grange Hall, Kutztown, recently, the program honored the high herds and cows in each breed and the accurate tester-supervisors working for the association.

"We're trying to help you," stated Kenneth Schlegel, president, as he began the meeting. He continued, "We're still working on some new things."

The stars of the meeting were the high herds in the county and their high producing cows. The partnership of John and William Mertz, RD 1, Kutztown, with their 1965 herd average of 22,266M and

786F, gained them the top spot on the county list for milk production.

The Mertz Brothers milk 44 cows and farm approximately 270 acres. Although the work is divided between the two brothers, William Mertz stated that they both try to keep up to date with the entire operation.

"We got to know what's happening," he added. Mertz also related that the herd average improved when they began feeding a total mixed ration about four years ago. "We've usually been up there (in the top herds)," Mertz continued, but added, "there's always a little luck with it."

This is the first time the Mertz Brothers mostly registered herd has reached the top in the county. With their 44 cows in the comfort stall barn they edged out another regularly high herd in the county, that of Charles and Tim Kissling, R1, Robesonia.

With the Kissling herd consistently in first or second place in the county for the past several years, and Tim Kissling's nutritional knowledge at hand all the time, (Tim Kissling also does the Mertz Brothers nutritional work), it is not surprising to see the herd of Charles & Tim Kissling, R1, Robesonia, stand second for milk production but first in fat production in the county.

It is also not surprising to find out that the owners of these two top herds are related.

Mrs. Charles (Betty) Kissling is the sister to John and William Mertz. Top management must run in this family, with the two herds garnering top awards in milk, fat, and protein. The Kissling's herd average on 68 cows was 21,949 milk, and 808 fat, and was the only herd in the county to surpass the 800 pounds of fat mark.

These two herds also shared the high protein honors with the Mertz Brothers in first place with 702 pounds protein and the Kisslings in second place with 700 pounds of protein.

High cow for lifetime milk production went to Rue-Hel Sunshine Amy owned by Rue-Hel Farms R1, Mohrsville. "Amy" produced 258,215 milk and 8987 fat in 4,015 days. High cow for lifetime fat production went to Plushanski Star Orange owned by Plushanski Farms, R3, Kutztown, who produced 242,461 milk, 9720 fat in 3281 days.



Owners of the high cow awards in each breed stand with their plaques. Left to right: David Clare, R1, New Tripoli, Guernsey; Dean and Brenda Daubert, R2, Bernville, Brown Swiss; and Glenn Seidel, R1, Robesonia, Ayrshire.

In the Ayrshire breed, the individual high cow awards went to the cows in the herd of Heindel Farms, George and Glenn Seidel, R1, Womelsdorf. High Ayrshire for milk was "Patience" with 8-00 305 days, 18,401M, and 4.1%, 746F. High Ayrshire for fat was "Rosie" with 5-06, 304 days, 16,266M, 4.6% and 756F. High Ayrshire for protein was "Patience" with 3.3% and 606 pounds.

The Guernsey breed featured the cow of David Clare, R1, New Tripoli in high fat and protein production. "Irma" took first place with 4-10 305 days 16,220M and 4.7% 761F and 3.6% and 592 pounds of protein. John Snyder, Limekiln, owned the high producer for milk, "Lorene" with 5-05 305 days 17,847M 4.2%, and 743 pounds fat.

High milk production in the Jersey breed went to "Ann" owned by Bruce Leiby, Hamburg, producing 2-11 305 days, 18,313M 3.8% and 688 F. Dr. Robert and Helene Dreisbach's cows took high fat and protein honors with #227 at 6-05 300 days, 16,289M 5.3% and 859 fat. High protein cow was #189 at 7-02, 305 days, 16,538M 4.0% protein and 664 pounds protein.

Brown Swiss awards were gathered by the herd of Dean Daubert, R2, Bernville. His cow, "Lucinda" produced the most milk with 6-02 305 days, 20,972M 3.6% 745F. "Nan" had high fat with 9-01 305 days, 20,836M 4.1% and 846 pounds of fat. "Chip" produced the most protein with 4-00 305 days, 18,645M, 4.1% and 767 pounds of protein.

(Turn to Page A23)



The Kissling family stands with John Mertz, R1, Kutztown, representing Mertz Brothers. The Kissling herd took top honors for high herd for fat and the Mertz herd had high milk production in the county.

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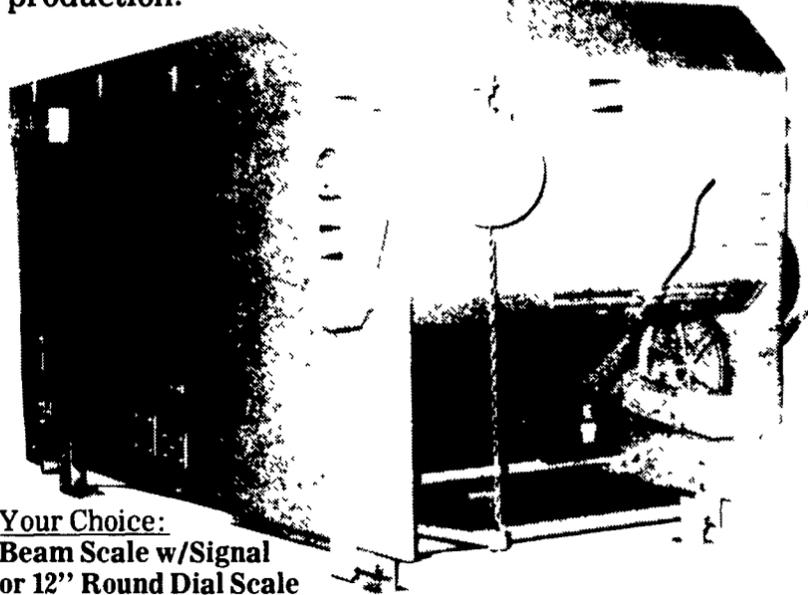
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