

'Julia' Did it With Chocolate and Management

WILLOW VALLEY — At last month's National Guernsey Convention, Gerald Garber's 5-year-old, Grassland Nev Julia, won the prestigious Tarbell trophy, presented yearly to the breed's highest 305-day, mature-equivalent milkfat producer.

Although Garber's recently won recognition with "Julia," his story with her begins in 1983.

At the 1983 Pennsylvania State Guernsey Sale Garber purchased "Julia" with money he won in connection with being named Outstanding Guernsey Youth. This award carried a \$500 check to be used toward the purchase of Guernsey cattle.

Garber got the most for his money with the purchase of the then 4-year old, one of his few cattle buys. When Garber bought "Julia" he expected she would make 20,000 pounds of milk based on her large size and her first

lactation's record of 17,000 pounds of milk.

However, he was surprised when she produced 1,290 pounds of fat for a 5.8 test. Equally surprising for Garber was when her actual record surpassed her M.E. record. "Julia's" M.E. record, for which she won the award, was 22,107 pounds of milk and 1,264 pounds of fat.

During her 5-year-old award winning lactation she was fed a regular ration that was balanced for 100 pounds of milk, Garber explained. "I just kept feed in front of her, the Guy who created her did the rest."

One of his goals while growing up was to someday own a top producer; he accomplished this goal with "Julia."

Top producers are not uncommon for the Garber herd. Willow Telestar Hattie, owned by his father, Kenneth, was a national



Located in Willow Valley, Lancaster County, the Garber herd has been the top Guernsey herd in the state for the past three years. Recently, Gerald Garber's cow, Grassland Nev Julia, was awarded the Tarbell trophy, presented yearly to the breed's highest 305-day, two-time, mature-equivalent milkfat producer.



Although "Julia" died in March last year, her family continues with "Jewel," a just fresh Admiral daughter.

class leader in 1984 with a 3-year-old record of 20,073 pounds of milk and 1,102 pounds of fat.

Currently their herd is ranked number 10 on the National Guernsey Milkfat Production List and number 11 on the Milk Production List with a rolling herd average of 16,332 pounds of milk and 777 pounds of fat.

Also, the Garbers' herd has been the top Guernsey herd in the state for the past three years. Gerald has been the herdsman for the past four years.

There are three keys to his

success: chocolate, the overall feeding program, and management.

All of the cows in the herd are fed the same "regular feed ration" with consideration given to stage and level of production. Garber's regular ration includes three pounds of a mix of chocolate and ground ear corn.

The chocolate is an economical feed at \$70 per ton. Garber has found the real economics of using chocolate by combining it with their homegrown feeds and using their hammermill. The chocolate

is a labor intensive feed if it is handled properly.

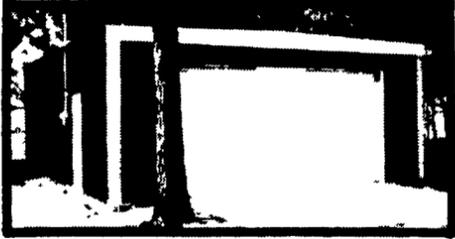
The meltability of chocolate and the large amount of hardware (pieces of the candy processing machines) found in each load, are two reasons for the extra labor, Garber notes.

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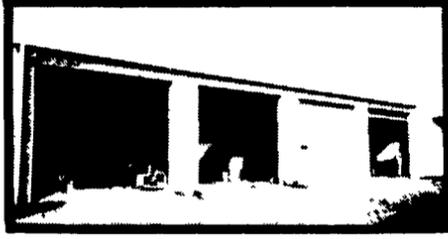
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