

Washington County Guernsey Breeders Prepare

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and 695 pounds of fat on 57 cow in 1985. The 1986 record stood at 14,338 pounds of milk and 680 pounds of fat on 55 cows.

In years past, father and son have shown cattle at local, state and national shows. In 1977, Elsvie Farms Winstons DeeJae was the All-American Junior Yearling. During the past few years Jean has sold young stock to 4-H club members which have done well in competition throughout the state.

Not only do 4-H'ers go to Elsvie for stock, but cattle from this herd have been sold through state and national sales. Consigned by Lindsay Brubaker, Dayton, Va., Elsvie Farms Fayette Janie will be sold in the 1987 National Guernsey Sale, slated for Saturday evening in the Sheraton's ballroom.

Currently the Celestine family has a total herd of 104 Guernsey, including 60 cows, 20 calves, and 24 yearlings and bred heifers. The majority of the breeding is done AI using such sires as Choice, Maverick, Telesar, Fayette, Deacon and Captain.

The farm is comprised of 212 acres which includes 40 acres of corn and 100 acres of hay with the remaining acreage in an oat combination and used as a cover crop.

A majority of the bulls born at Elsvie Farms are sold at birth except for those from good an-

cestry. One such bull, Elsvie Farms Stars, was bought by the Mid-Atlantic Guernsey Sires and is presently waiting to be proven. The Celestines have two daughters from Fury in their herd.

In addition to hosting a portion of the tour, Jean Celestine is chairman of the convention's registration committee.

Co-Hill Farms

The second farm on the visitation agenda is Co-Hill Farms owned by Antoinette and Joseph Fava.

While at Co-Hill convention-goers will have the opportunity to see the Fava's Nanny cow family. Nanny is an 8-year-old Excellent Maverick daughter with a production record of 22,000 pounds of milk, 1,100 pounds of fat and 900 pounds of protein. At one time the Favas had a request for seven male offspring from the Nanny cow through AI.

Not only does Nanny have an Excellent Big Tex daughter, but many of her embryo transfer progeny appear to be promising. Nanny is the dam of the highest selling unborn embryo ever. This embryo was bought by the North Star Syndicate.

Nanny is from a line of five generations of Very Good dams, all of which were Gold Star Guernseys with records up to 21,000 pounds of milk and 1,000 pounds of fat.

Alisa Fava, the oldest Fava daughter, is hoping to show convention-goers that her family is



Taking time out of their convention preparations is the Marchezak family. Pictured left is Dorothy, John Sr., John Jr., John's wife, Lee Ann, and Patty McMurray. Front are John and Lee Ann's daughters, Annie and Randi.

breeding cows that can go from the milk tank to the showring and be successful in both areas.

The father-son partnership of Joseph and Lewis have a 65 cow milking herd and a total herd of 175 Guernseys. Even though the operation is considered a partnership, it is a family operated farm with the help of Alisa, Rene, Kelly, Lewis' wife, Norma, and their two children.

As a recent graduate of Virginia Tech, where she majored in dairy science, Alisa has been able to apply what she learned to Co-Hill Farms and the Guernsey herd.

Alisa is actively involved in the national convention. She serves as chairman of the public relations committee. As chairman and along with the other committee members, Alisa has organized a press conference that will be held prior to the official opening of the convention. The objective of the public relations committee is to show the general public that the agricultural community is just as advanced and professional as other occupations.

Twin Brook Farm

At the third and final stop of the farm tour, the Guernsey breeders will have the opportunity to see the scenic Twin Brooks Farm.

At Twin Brooks, operated by John Marchezak Sr. and John Jr., a variety of activities are being planned for the visitors. There will be a relaxing barbecue and ethnic foods relative to southern Pennsylvania for those who desire a change of pace.

Patty McMurray, Dorothy and John Marchezak Sr.'s daughter, will be the referee for the Junior Guernsey Ag Olympics. Games tentatively planned for these 'Olympics' include tug-of-war; milker relay, which involves two youth teams with each member taking apart and putting together a bucket milker; feed scooping relay; ice cream eating contest; and a milk drinking contest with an added touch — the youths will be drinking the milk from a baby bottle.

During the tour, the Marchezak's dry cow program will be emphasized. A few years ago the dry cows, housed in a new barn, became "too easy to feed." Problems became evident when the mature cows would fatten. The problem was narrowed down to fatty livers among the mature cows.

Once the problem was evident,



Even though Jean spends most of her time doing the farm's bookwork she enjoys working with the herd when she gets a chance. Here she is looking over some of the young stock and prospective 4-H projects.



Each cow at Elsvie Farms receives special attention in order to achieve maximum production.



Contributing much time and energy to the Marchezak operation is Tom Andrejchak, a full-time farm employee. Tom is shown beginning the evening milking.



Elsvie Farms Leader Janie at 6-04 305 days is producing 18,354 pounds of milk, 759 pounds of fat at 4.1 percent. Elsvie Top Leader, studded to ABC Sire Services, Janie's sire is one of the many success stories at Elsvie. At the halter is Bob Rabickow, the farm's herdsman.