

Lancaster Holstein Breeders

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butterfat. The Ross Smith family gave a lot of credit for their high butterfat test to 62% moisture haylage preserved in bags and cottonseed in a total mixed ration. The Smiths have found that the more haylage they feed the more milk and test they produce. And high records on individual cows are made right with the rest of the herd that's milked in a double-6 parlor. The Smiths also show a lot of type since their herd has a BAA of 104.5 with 16 excellent and 50 very good cows.

Mr. and Mrs. Marlin Hoff, New Windsor, greeted the tour on their Coldsprings Farm where 1800 acres on several farms provide

feed for 400 registered Holsteins with an average of 20,000 lbs. of milk and 740 lbs. of butterfat. A feed mill right on the farm produces a total mixed ration of haylage, corn silage, roasted beans, chopped hay and grains for the cows.

Hoff showed many of the cows on two farms to the tour group. He knows each of his 400 cows individually, and doesn't think a farmer should have cows if he doesn't know them.

A new California-style flat barn was of interest to the group. This new system allows closer contact with individual cows as they are milked. At Coldsprings they breed all of their heifers to their young

bulls and then keep the bulls around until they are proven. Hoff said he could not tell any difference between the offspring of his own young bulls and those in AI.

Hoff likes cows that have deep cow families. "Numbers are something, but not enough," Hoff said, "Use what you know is good." Coldspring Farms have deep pedigreed cow families that have numerous offsprings in different AI studs.

After you drive in the winding lane past the farm pond with geese and ducks, you arrive at Peace and Plenty Farm, Union Bridge, owned by Maryland State Holstein President, Joe Swartzbeck and family. The tour group saw a green house attached to the side of the barn and a farm office full of trophies and news clippings about the family's accomplishments with Holsteins. And they saw the cows. The herd has a BAA of 106.5 with 13 excellent and 45 very good cows. Production is over 20,000 lbs. of milk and 730 lbs. of butterfat.

At Jim Stonesifer Family Farm at Ardel the Holstein group saw a farm that has been honored for its conservation practices. A 130,000 gal. concrete storage facility retains all milk house and liquid waste. The meadow stream is piped and covered with stones. Only drinking fountains are left open to allow the cows in the pasture access to drinking water.

A Virginia-style barn houses the heifers and the calf hutches were made in (you guessed it) Lancaster County. In fact Amish carpenters were building an addition to the barn at the time of the tour visit.



Seven-year-old Andrea Brubaker found a friend at Sunset View Farm on the Lancaster County Holstein Tour to Maryland last week. Andrea went along with her dad John Brubaker because she had the day off from school.



The Lancaster Holstein tour group visited My Lady's Manor Farm where silage is a mainstay of the feeding program.

Stonesifer showed several outstanding cows from his Holstein herd. In addition, another herd of a different breed, that should not be named on a Holstein tour, greeted the tour bus at the meadow gate. The pretty Jerseys (oops) caused a lot of good-natured banter including a suggestion that the tour committee of Greg Landis, Dick Melinger and John Howard be reported to State Holstein Secretary Bill Nichol.

But it was obvious that these dairymen enjoyed all the cows that

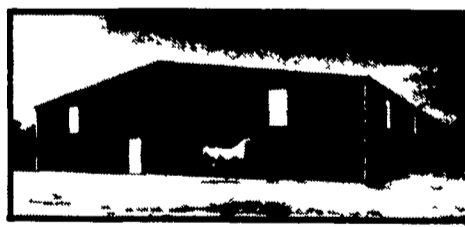
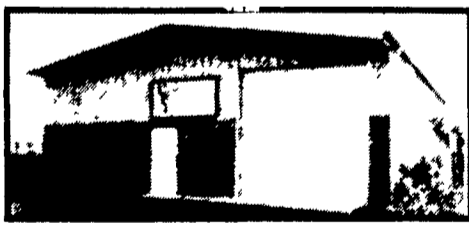
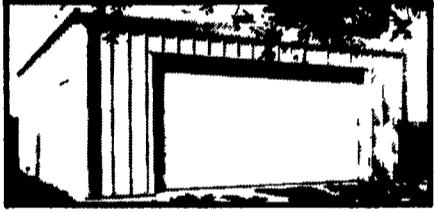
they saw. Including the cute little three-week-old Jersey calf that was born prematurely. And they enjoyed all the farms and facilities that were open to them by their friends across the Mason-Dixon Line. Within the hour of their arrival back at the Farm and Home Center, any guilt of mind that they should have stayed home and worked like their neighbors was likely gone. The new ideas received and the new friends that were made eliminated any such thoughts.

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