



"As long as these cows work, I will," said Paul Lewis, right, herdsman and partner of Ro La Farms Inc. In Rexville N.Y. Agri-King area manager Earl Ginder, left, services the company's number one herd.

Agri-King Helps Dairy Herd Be High Producers

FULTON, IL — Nestled in a valley of the Allegheny Mountains in lower New York is one of the nation's finest dairy herds. It's owned and operated by a farm family who claim "Our cows aren't anything special...we don't do anything special."

However, at the top of the lengthy DHIA report can be found Ro La Farms, of Rexville, N.Y.

Ro La is milking 220 grade Holstein cows that in June reached a production level of 26,211 pounds of milk with 832 pounds of butterfat. The herd consists of 117 first-calf heifers milking at high levels and has a calving interval of 12.7 months with an income over value of feed of \$2,076 per cow—almost double the national average for the breed.

The cows are fed a total mixed ration with only one milking ration set at 75 pounds and top dressing in the milk parlor. Top-quality corn silage is fed, and the precisely balanced ration also includes haylage, 44 percent soybean meal, Soy Plus, dry shelled corn, whole cottonseed (seven pounds per cow per day), and a mineral mix of Di-Cal, limestone, bicarbonate, salt, and Agri-King products. No hay is fed except in the pre-freshening ration.

Feedstuff testing and ration balancing are done by Agri-King with Earl Ginder of Manheim, Pa., servicing the account.

The May DHIA report revealed that there were 40 cows milking above 100 pounds a day and that the top cow was a second-calf heifer producing 155 pounds, down two pounds from April.

This dairy herd has ranked among the top 20 Holstein dairy herds in the nation for three consecutive years. No other herd can claim this distinction, to the best of Agri-King's knowledge.

Under the management of herdsman Paul Lewis, the only

magic in the operation appears to be in the word "consistency."

"We do everything exactly the same three times a day," Paul noted. "We milk 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m., and 1:00 a.m., and our routine is exactly the same every time every day. When something works you don't fool with it."

Ro La has been using Agri-King's feeding programs since December of 1980, and they estimate that production then was somewhere between 17,000 and 18,000 pounds. After hitting the 24,000 pound mark slightly longer than two years ago, the herd hung at that level for the next two years, reaching the 26,000-pound mark only once in that period. This time, however, Paul doesn't think they will drop.

"Things have been going good...really good...for several months," he added. "If we keep this up, we'll hit 27,000 pounds within a year."

The top Holstein herd in the nation for 1988 was at 27,432 pounds.

"The biggest thing I can see here is Agri-King," Paul said. "That's been the turnaround for this herd. From the first day we were on Agri-King, we saw a pound a day increase, and that's the way things have kept going. We had a set goal of 20,000 pounds when we started with them....We made that the first year."

Paul feels that if there are any secrets or magic to reaching this kind of production, it's "making the whole thing work: your forages, your breeding techniques, your feeding program and getting the most out of high producers."

However, all those things are combined with tons of tender loving care and a lot of hard work. It takes three men to care for the herd and each works 12 hour days at Ro La. Milking in the double-four her-



The milking herd is limited and culled to 200 cows at Ro La because of a double-four herringbone parlor. Milkers are Mike Pendleton and Keith Lewis.



York Farm Credit Awards Scholarships

YORK (York Co.) - York Farm Credit recently awarded \$750 college scholarships to Stephanie J. Meyers and James C. Rexroth.

Stephanie Meyers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Robert Meyers, Jr. of St. Thomas, is a 1987 graduate of James Buchanan High School. James C. Rexroth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Rexroth of Windsor, is a 1988 graduate of Eastern York High School. Both students are studying dairy science at Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State University.

This is the first year for the York Farm Credit Scholarships, which were established by the cooperative to help deserving youth continue their education in an agriculture-related field.

The scholarship program is open to all high school seniors and college students. Entrants are judged on character, academic performance and experience in agriculture. Applicants must also be a member or the child of a member of York Farm Credit and attend or plan to attend a four-year college full time.

York Farm Credit, ACA is affiliated with the Farm Credit Bank of Baltimore, part of the nationwide Farm Credit System, the nation's leading agricultural lending institution. The Bank provides funds and services to sixteen other ACAs (Agricultural Credit Associations) in the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.



Lester E. Martin, York Farm Credit director, presents a scholarship award to Stephanie J. Meyers.



Ralph H. McGregor, chairman of York Farm Credit Board of Directors, presents a scholarship award to James C. Rexroth.

Du Pont Unveils Returnable Pesticide Container

WILMINGTON, DE — The Du Pont Company has created two new programs to help growers and applicators solve some pesticide container disposal problems.

Under one program, "Asana" XL pyrethroid will be available this year in a new 14-gallon returnable container. In the other program, Du Pont will take back all empty 30-gallon drums that contained one of its pyrethroids.

The reusable, 14-gallon stainless-steel container for "Asana" XL, called "Rebound", will be available in selected areas for use on cotton and vegetable crops.

"Growers and applicators now can take care of more than yield-robbing insects with 'Asana' XL. They also can eliminate the problem of what to do with used containers," said Greg Buss, packaging

coordinator for Du Pont Agricultural Products.

Buss added that the new container offers growers and applicators several other benefits, including convenient dispensing and reduced exposure risk.

With proper pumping equipment, the "Rebound" container forms a closed system. The seals and connections are designed to prevent leaks when used with pump and metering systems such as the Scienco EP-12H or the HP-20 system.

The convenient size of the reusable containers makes them easy to store, and they are designed for palletized double-stacking.

After use, the 14-gallon "Rebound" container is returned to the chemical supplier, who returns it to Du Pont or its agents.

Regarding the other container disposal program, Buss explains that Du Pont will take back all empty 30-gallon pyrethroid drums

that contained "Asana" XL, "Asana", "Pydrin", or "Payoff".

This 30-gallon container return program is available nationwide, according to Buss. Growers and applicators with used drums should contact their distributors or Du Pont representative for information.

Du Pont is active in developing new packaging that reduces the problem of container disposal. The company also is a leading user of water-soluble packages, which produce little waste and are environmentally sound.

"Growers and applicators are concerned about container disposal because of the environmental impact and the added cost," said Buss. "Our new programs are designed to help eliminate the problem of container disposal. And by eliminating that problem, we eliminate an environmental problem."

Patz Introduces Two Belt Conveyors

POUND WI — The new Patz 12- and 16-inch belt conveyors feature new concave, open-pan sections. The open-pan sections reduce belt drag. These new Patz belt conveyors offer economical, high-volume conveying at attractive prices.

Optional, plow-offs permit

dropping feed at points other than the end for added layout flexibility. Both conveyors use a proven single V-belt drive unit that provides simplicity for easy maintenance and long service life.

For more information, contact a Patz dealer. Or, contact Patz at PO Box 7, Pound, WI 54161; 414/897-2251.