

Fresh, Tasty Foods

Masonic Homes has a contract with Harrisburg Dairies, who processes the milk.

In addition, eggs are produced by a 10,000-layer flock. The broiler operation recently was discon-

tinued due to a new resident building currently under construction would be too close to the broiler house for problem-free production.

Essential to the beef, dairy, and



Albert Wilson, assistant farm manager, takes care of raising beef and crops as well as the facility's dairy herd.



Albert Wilson, left, and Gerald Tracy take a look at Masonic Homes' herd of purebred Shorthorn.

hog operations are the crops grown on the property. Under the direction of assistant farm manager Albert Wilson, field workers plant 300 acres of corn, 78 acres of barley, 57 acres of wheat, 70 acres of alfalfa, and 20 acres of soybeans.

Of all the crops produced, only wheat is sold with the straw being used as bedding.

Before planting corn, Wilson takes soil and manure samples to determine fertilizer applications. Fields are prepared by chisel plowing, discing, and cultivating with a

disc running ahead of the planter. Weeds are kept to a minimum with Dual and Bladex. An average of 125-130 bushels are harvested per acre.

Wheat or barley follows corn in the crop rotation with alfalfa planted after the small grain. "I try not to have a field in corn for more than three years," commented Wilson, who has 35 years of experience at Masonic Homes. "And I think that if you put wheat in next, the soil holds the moisture better, so there's less disease and

rootworm."

Alfalfa is seeded in August after the small grains are harvested. As with the corn, Wilson samples the soil, and he limes as needed to keep the soil pH at 7. Pesticide is applied to stands after they are established.

After first cutting, the stands are sprayed for weevils, and after second cutting they are sprayed for leaf hopper. Stands are sprayed for weeds in the fall, and at the same time about 400 to 450 pounds of

(Turn to Page A42)

35 DAYS Aug. 15, 16, 17

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