

Mid-Winter Haylage Tour

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age to come out of the silo at about 40 to 45 percent moisture. "A little dryer and the cows will not eat it as well and when its wetter you start to hurt your feeding program," Sheldon said.

Alfalfa is grown but because of lack of limestone in the soil, the stand will last only three or four

years at the most. "I believe you need to take the crop off in the fall when you have it, Sheldon said. "I don't wait to see if it will hold over winter. If it doesn't we just replant it in the spring."

A major problem for the Harshbergers is the deer that live wild in their area. "We have as many deer on the farm as we have cattle,"

Sheldon said. "They get their share of the crops. The only way to help this problem is to allow more deer to be killed. In Juniata County they cut the issued licences in half. Yet all the farmers around here have more deer than ever."

Ja-Lene Holsteins

When the Ishlers were out of haylage because of the drought, they could really notice a drop in milk production. In addition, they test the haylage every month and the results have run as high as 25 percent protein and 65 percent TDN. "But it varies," John said. "So we test every month."

Only 12 percent of their milk check goes for purchased feed for their 72 cows and young stock. The herd average is 20,964m 747f 3.2% protein. Milk production has risen about 3000 pounds since they started the haylage program.

Its a nice way to handle feed," John said. "You put it in the top and take it out the bottom, so you never are without cured feed. I never remember our haylage testing over 50 percent moisture, even this year when most people could not make hay because of the rains."

The Ishlers use paper for bedding. Since Centre County has a recycling program, paper is delivered to the farm without cost. The

cow stalls and calf pens were clean and dry with the paper bedding.

John thinks breeding programs should put more emphasis on selection for solids and protein. He says that in the past when milk prices went up, fat prices went up too. But now milk prices are up but fat prices are down.

Ideal Holsteins

The herd at Ideal Holsteins were moved to Centre County from New Jersey several years ago. "When I bought the farm they could have taken down the Harvestore silos for all I would have cared," said Jacob Janis. "I had heard about high maintance costs. I was scared of them. But now I'm sold on them. It sure beats making hay."

Jacob credits the feed he gets

from the Harvestore silos with softer udders and and fewer puffy hocks. "Maybe you get a little more milk with corn silage, but I think the cows will last longer," Jacob said.

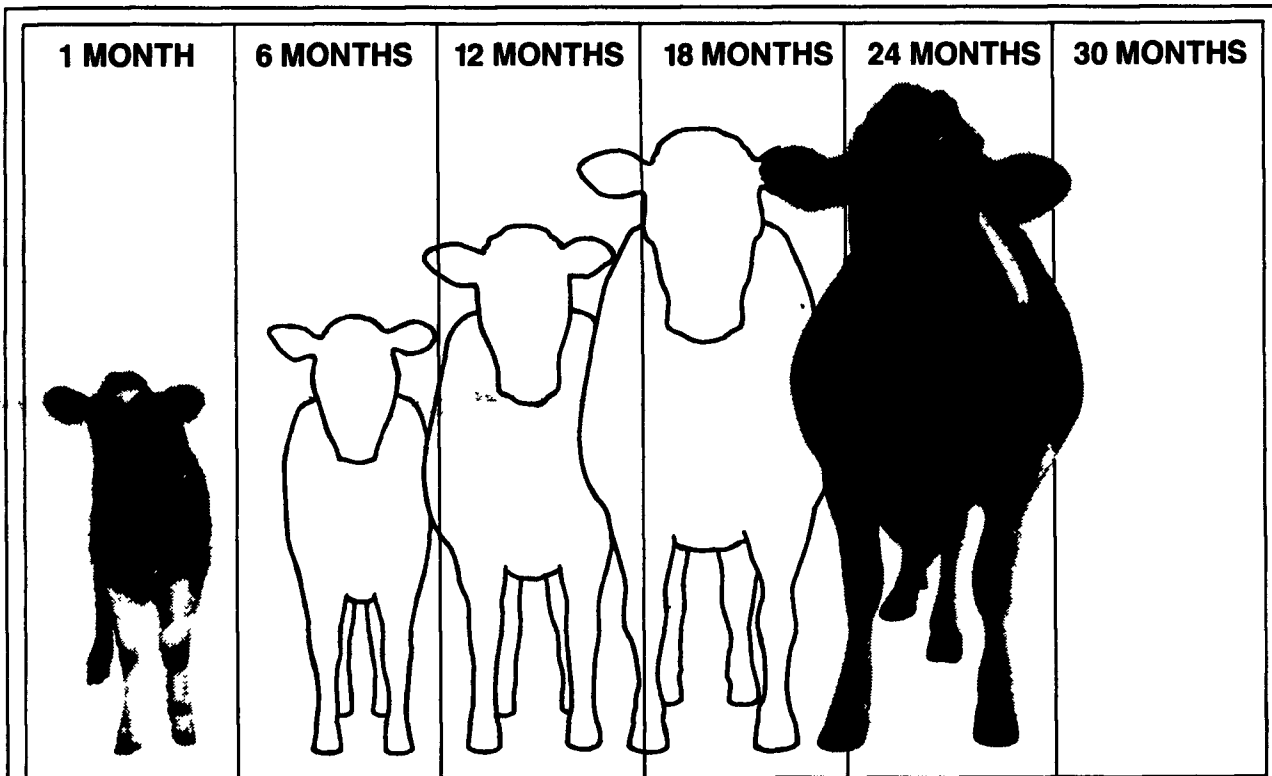
Even so, the Ideal Holsteins produced 23,300m and 834f last year. In addition, the group from Lancaster saw 11 excellent cows and 37 very good cows. The current BAA is 107.9

Only a small amount of balled hay is fed to the milking herd. Harvestore-processed haylage and high moisture corn along with corn silage are fed in a total-mixed ration.

The bus tour returned to Lancaster in the evening, but not quite in time for the participants to help with their own milking chores at home.



Mr. and Mrs. John Ishler (left) and son Todd with an excellent cow in the Ja-Lene Holstein herd.



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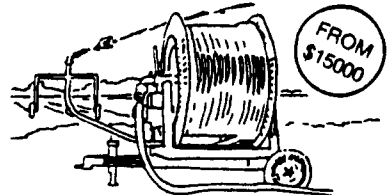
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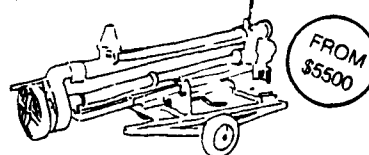
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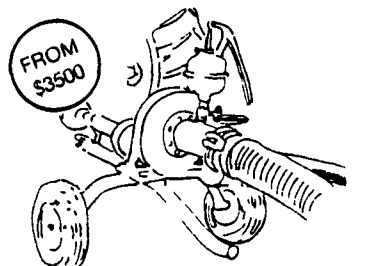
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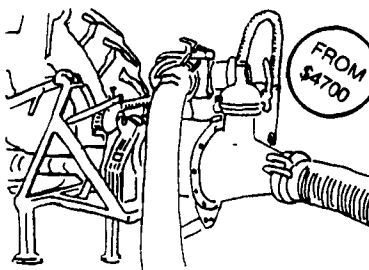
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