A30-Lancaster Farming, Saturday, October 27, 1990

Two Holstein Herds

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Sinans.

Last year, fourth place was the best that either farm placed in a ranking of production. That recognition was received by Smyser for average milk production.

For both farms, the 1990 records showed a significant increase from 1989 results.

Last year, the Smyser herd averaged 73.7 cows, each averaging 25,495 pounds of milk, 842 pounds of butterfat and 794 pounds of protein. That represents increases of 8 percent in milk and protein production and 6 percent in milkfat.

The Sinans herd had averaged 25,051 pounds milk, 905 pounds of milkfat and 789 pounds protein in 1987-88. Compared to this past

year's production, the Sinans saw a 5-percent change in milk production, a 10 percent change in milkfat and a 3 percent change in protein production.

Herd management apparently changed during the past several vears for both operations, according to DHIA records.

Both farmers said they did indeed change some of their ways of managing their herds.

According to DHIA records, from 1987 to 1990, both operations saw significant changes in their herds for the percentage of first calf heifers.

Culling inefficient cows apparently picked up at the same time, according to records. Also, the total number of cows (dry and

replacement animals) retained on the farm increased.

Neither operation's milking herd population went up significantly, but records show that both the percentage of first calf heifers in the herd and cows removed doubled within the last three years.

At the Sinan operation, 1987 records show 34 percent first calf heifers. This year, that went to 55 percent.

The Sinan removal rate went from 26 percent in 1987 to 47 percent this past year. Their total cows changed from 97 cows two years ago to 158 this past year.

At the Smyser operation, the 1987 first calf heifer rate was 23 percent. This past year it was 51 percent.

The cull rate in 1987 was 25 percent. This past year it was up to 49 percent. The total number of cows in 1987 was 100 and this past year it was 158.

Milos Sinan said he did in fact

makes some changes to the operation in order to push overall production. He said he has also concentrated on milkfat production.

An increase of 10 percent in a herd's milkfat production has to be attributed to something specific.

The key to his success is apparently feeding constantly and using sulfur and yeast additives in addition to high protein haylage and protein and mineral additives.

He also spends a lot of time with the cows.

"We have pretty good quality feed," he said. "We always make it early and we are always working with the cows, all the time. We have a pretty good breed and we've been getting some pretty good cows all the time."

Early 1987, the Sinan's switched to milking three times a

day. "We were in the barn all the time anyway," he said, "and we were almost 23,000 pounds and they were leaking milk before we went to three times a day. It was the only thing to do."

and, with working two other farms, operate on about 400 acres.

All members of the family -Milos, wife Sandy, daughter Marlane, and sons Mevlan and Milos Jr. -- work the farm. One hired man helps out.

In addition to milking, Milos drives milk truck every other night. The sons drive milk truck full time. Milos has been driving for 30 years and serves 45-dairymen in Indiana County.

The cows are held in a 120-foot, by 60-foot barn with 81 stanchions. Most of the cows' time is spent in the barn with food in front of them.

Sinan said he has gone to using yeast, which he claims increases their appetite, in order to get the cows to eat more and produce more.

The stalls are in three lines and were put in this past year along with a new pulse-drive, two-inch pipeline system and a gravity manure system with lagoon. Milos attributes a low somatic cell count to the new system.

He raises most of the feed ----(Turn to Page A36)





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