Smith's Guernseys: Breed Of Choice Or Heritage?

(Continued from Page A20)

"It cuts down on any problems with disease," David said. "It would be nice to have an isolation area to keep new animals, but we don't have the room for an isolation area. We use all the area we have."

Robert said they use all their available land for dairy production. In the past his father used to keep hogs and chickens for family use and local sale, but times changed.

David does the breeding now and is active in trying to improve the breed.

Robert said his father was also active in maintaining an allregistered herd. Robert carried on the tradition.

For breeding goals, the emphasis was clearly on production and longevity - good udders and

good legs.

"We hope we improved type," Robert said. "(Back then) We had a local breeder do all the breeding.'

For the Guernsey breed, Robert said that while the number of animals in the state is continually decreasing, as is the case with other breeds, "We try to keep our breed improving type-wise and with production.

The farm is actually a combination of two farms that were started independently, according to Robert. Jacob started renting the adjacent farm, then bought it during the 1960s.

The size of the farm has not changed since.

The adjacent farm is different construction. It has a high limestone-walled bank barn that currently houses the heifers. A picturesque, old red-tiled silo, stands next to it, but that's no longer in use.

In half of the farmhouse (of the adjacent farm) is where Dave lives with his wife Kathy and two children, Erin, 4, and Joel 11 months. He shares the house with a fulltime herdsman Tom Hostetter, who with his wife Gloria, has three children showing dairy animals in 4-H . . . guess which breed.

Actually, Hostetter's children have an aged cow and two 3-yearolds. The aged cow gave a September heifer calf, and the 3-year-olds produced June and March heifer calves.

The set up of the milking barn has remained at 65 stalls since Jacob expanded it from about 45 stalls, years ago. The 2-inch pipeline was installed about 20 years ago.

The heavy beams of both barns attest to the age and durability of the structures. And with windows and large fans, ventilation in the milking barn is very good.

Manure is not a problem, using classical aisle gutters with scrapers. Spreading manure is not a problem either, since the 150 acres can adequately carry the load.

The most recent rolling herd average for the herd is 19,264 pounds of milk, 672 pounds of fat and 595 pounds of protein.

Dave said the production has been increasing because of an improvement in forage quality. This year protein levels in hay

have been around 19 percent. Last year, protein levels in hay were about 15 percent.

The Smiths use horizontal trench silage storage with good results and feed a mixture of hay, grain and corn silage.

Dave said that eventually, when milk prices turn around, he'd like to switch to total mixed rations, but for now the cost is prohibitive and he hand scoops grain from a cart. He fills the cart from an over head shute located at one end of the ailse of the milking barn.

According to the Smiths, the problem with the dairy industry isn't because of what breeds are being used. The problems have more to do with artificial and man-

(Continued from Page A10)

Friday, May 24

Centre Co. Dairy Princess

Saturday, May 25

Northwest Keystone Junior Beef Classic, Crawford Co. Fair-

Sunday, May 26

grounds, Meadville, thru May

Pleasant Gap, 7:30 p.m.

Pageant, Logan Grange Hall,

noon-4 p.m.

Baron's Inn, Greene, N.Y.,

Farm Calendar

ipulated demands.

In the meantime, David continues to work steadily and volunteer his help in coaching the Lebanon County dairy judging team, along with Alan Hostetter and John Bombgardner.

In fact the whole family is involved in dairying in some way or the other.

Tom Smith, the youngest of the three Smith sons, is a graduate of Delaware Valley College and he works for Atlantic Breeders Cooperative as a technician.

Dave's other brother, Dale, also helps out at the family farm in addition to driving school bus and coaching track and wrestling at Palmyra High School.

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 28

Snyder Co. farmland preservation

Wednesday, May 29

Thursday, May 30

EAYFA Ag Issues, "Food Safe-

ty," Kreider's Restaurant, 7:30

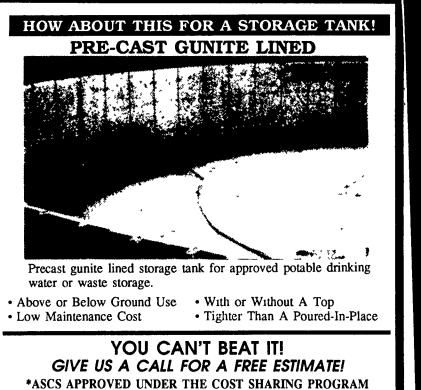
School, 8 p.m.

a.m.

meeting, Middleburg High



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