

Hamming Family's Roots In Holland,

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than when I started farming," Ike said. "When we started off in 1957, I thought we did real good. The cows produced enough to make the payments. At the time, I think we were doing better than we do today, even though now there is a whole lot more money moving around.

"I personally believe we should go on a quota system for the family farm to survive. My brother in Canada and my brother in Holland both have a quota system, and it has really payed off for them," he said.

When they started a quota system in Canada, they thought the world was going to come to an end. They had to drop from 125 cows down to 85. They didn't think they would make it. But the outcome was just as good. They had the same three families working the farm, but they got \$20 or more per hundredweight for milk.

Ray and Bruce with his wife Mary and children Bruce, 8 and Mark, 4 now farm in partnership with Ike and Janet. John Hardick has worked on the farm since he was a teenager. He not has a full-time job off the farm but comes

back often to help.

"The secret to our top producing herd includes a chlorine dropper for the water system, elimination of stray voltage from the cow trainers, and the installation of a TMR feeding system," Bruce said.

The cows are fed a TMR ration balanced for 70 pounds of milk per cow. Individual cows that exceed 80 pounds of milk are given a top dressed feed of 18 percent protein. Bruce uses the consultation service of Dr. Walter S. Kennett, director of nutrition, F.M. Brown's Sons, Inc.

They milk 124 cows, and have an average of 754,000 pounds of milk per year per man. They use bunk silos, service their own machinery whenever possible, and use a dump truck to haul silage from fields that can be up to seven miles from the barn. Total ground farmed including pasture and woods is 1,400 acres.

In 1981 they dispersed their milking herd that became the highest selling herd in the state of New Jersey at the time. The 60 cows averaged \$2,800. They have bred many show cows, the latest is Foothill Acres Elv Szara, who was

the first place State Futurity winner in 1990.

The Hammings enjoy helping 4-H youths to show calves and heifers, especially if they would not otherwise have the opportunity to work with the animals.

Many individual cows in the herd could be sited for their production records. Here are several of note:

Foothill Acres Persuader Olive (VG88-EX Mammary) 365d; 30,426m; 3.4%; 1046f; 3.2% 959p.

Lodestar First Ovation (VG85) over 200,000m lifetime.

Foothill Acres Bell Oralee (VG87) TPI 856; Milk, 1897; CFP +95; \$206; Type, 1.44; Udder Component 1.03. Ovation's 3y record is over 32,000m.

Foothill Acres Starwars Genie (VG88-Ex Mammary) 3y 328d; 27,825m; 3.0%; 822f; 2.9%; 806p.

Even with a herd average of 21,293m, 3.6%, 763f, 3.2%, 685p, on DHIR the Hammings still feel they are building the herd.

"We are always looking for ways to become more efficient," Bruce said. "We don't mind working hard, but we like to see a profit in the end."



The Hamming father and son partnership check the DHIA records.



Ike and Bruce Hamming with Foothill Acres Persuader Olive, their 30,000m, 1046f cow.



Foothill Acres Elva Szara was the 1990 New Jersey state futurity winner.

Ag Forum

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Under item 5a(ii), the annual compliance monitoring fee in these consumptive water projects is scheduled from \$100 to \$1,500 depending on usage.

Item 5b, states: "All ground-water withdrawal projects will be charged \$100." This would indicate all wells, regardless of gpd usage, would be subject to the \$100 yearly fee.

And item 5d states: "Projects that have consumptive use from ground-water sources will be charged a fee from each category of a and b above (5a & 5b). This would seem to indicate that even if the user was exempted under item 5a(i), the user would still be liable for the \$100 yearly fee under item 5b. If the user is liable on the fee schedule under item 5a(ii) an additional \$100 would be added to the fee under item 5b.

The resolution defines projects under this fee schedule to include: diversions of water, surface water withdrawals, hydroelectric projects, stream encroachments and local flood protection projects, consumptive uses, ground-water with-

drawals and projects determined by the Commission to be subject to its review and approval.

The resolution also states that the commission from time to time after public hearing and upon due notice given, may fix, alter and revise rates, rentals, charges and tolls for any services which it provides.

But Cairo said that even if the Commission is monitoring the water usage, the farmer has a common law or riparian right to access and use the water on his land. But in cases where water levels go below what Cairo called the Q7-10 (7 day average of 10 year low) the Commission has the authority to restrict usage.

In addition, Bielo said that where competitive uses cause conflicts between users, the Commission has the authority to declare that area to be especially protected and to require users to obtain special permits. In such cases ground and surface water use may be allocated through a permit system. "We have not done this yet," Bielo said. "But the Delaware River Commission has done it in Southeast Pennsylvania in the Philadelphia area.

Brubaker referred to a large

number of states that by the legislative process have taken away the riparian rights of land owners. He said that in Pennsylvania the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is even now reanalyzing this right.

"Your right to draw water is being reviewed by EPA and by the legislature, Brubaker said. "Agriculture is in a period of regulation. They (the Commission) has now admitted that they have the right to regulate water usage. Water is in a period of regulation. There is no stopping this wave of regulation but agriculture needs to tell these people (the Commission and the legislators) what we think of these regulations. A lot of new regulations may follow."

Lancaster County Agent John Schwartz asked about water usage by livestock and poultry operations. He wanted to know if the fees and regulations set up the Commission applied to these operations.

Cairo referred to the intermittent consumptive fee schedule, but Schwartz said livestock and poultry use water, many of them from ground-water sources, every day of the year.

Cairo then said they were not

included because animals sweat and urinate water back into the ecological system and because the Commission has never gone after these operations in the past.

But when asked specifically by a reporter if livestock and poultry operations would be exempted from the fee schedule, Bielo admitted that under the groundwater withdrawal regulations, livestock and poultry operations are included.

Walker concluded his discussion before the members of the Commission were introduced. But he said he was suspicious of a fee schedule that puts farming on the same basis with other users. He said there is a great difference between individual family farmers

and large industry that has some elasticity in their ability to pay fees.

"I am concerned about the definitions and some of the other things we have heard about ground water drawdown that would be part of this fee schedule," Walker said. "I am not very pleased with where I see us moving at the present time. I think there is room for negotiation to work this out, but I'm concerned with the implication for the future.

"We may come up with a somewhat modest program at the present time that could become a very burdensome program depending on who takes over and who decides on the schedule in the future. Once you open the door it's hard to shut it," Walker said.

Cawley Remains Ag Adviser

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — In announcing his intention to retire as Maryland's Secretary of Agriculture on Nov. 1, Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. said he was pleased to be staying on as a senior agricultural advisor to Governor William Donald Schaefer and the Department of Agriculture.

"I will continue to work hard to promote agriculture in Maryland

and work on the agricultural side of our Chesapeake Bay restoration effort," Cawley said.

"What I will miss most about no longer being secretary is the employees at the Maryland Department of Agriculture. They are a great group of people and over the years they have made my job easy," Cawley said.