

DHIA Rolling Herd Average

Date	Cows on Test	Days in Milk	Milk	Fat Lbs.	Fat %	Protein Lbs.	Protein %
9-01-91	150	84.5	18,275	652	3.6	591	3.2
1-12-91	125	85.1	18,872	697	3.7	610	3.2
4-06-90	110	86.0	19,016	694	3.6	613	3.2



**Pennfield
Profile**

Third Generation on Huntingdon County Dairy Farm

The Yoder farm has been in the family since 1944, when it was bought by Elmer Yoder. Willard Yoder Sr., his son, grew up on the farm then rented it for two years before buying it from his father in 1959. Willard Sr. still owns the land, but Willard Jr. and his wife, Betsy, own the cows.

The third generation of Yoders take care of things in the barn, but Willard Sr. continues to be in charge of the field work.

Over the years there have been a lot of changes on the farm. Tie stalls were replaced by a freestall barn in 1965. For many years thereafter, cows were fed all their grain in the double-six milking parlor, but that changed when Willard Jr. and Betsy installed their computerized feeding system.

Now cows get their daily ration of grain from feeding stations in the barnyard.

The family's division of ownership and labor is working out well for all concerned. The latest generation of Yoders gets to spend a lot of time with the cows, while Willard Sr. focuses on producing quality forages for the herd.

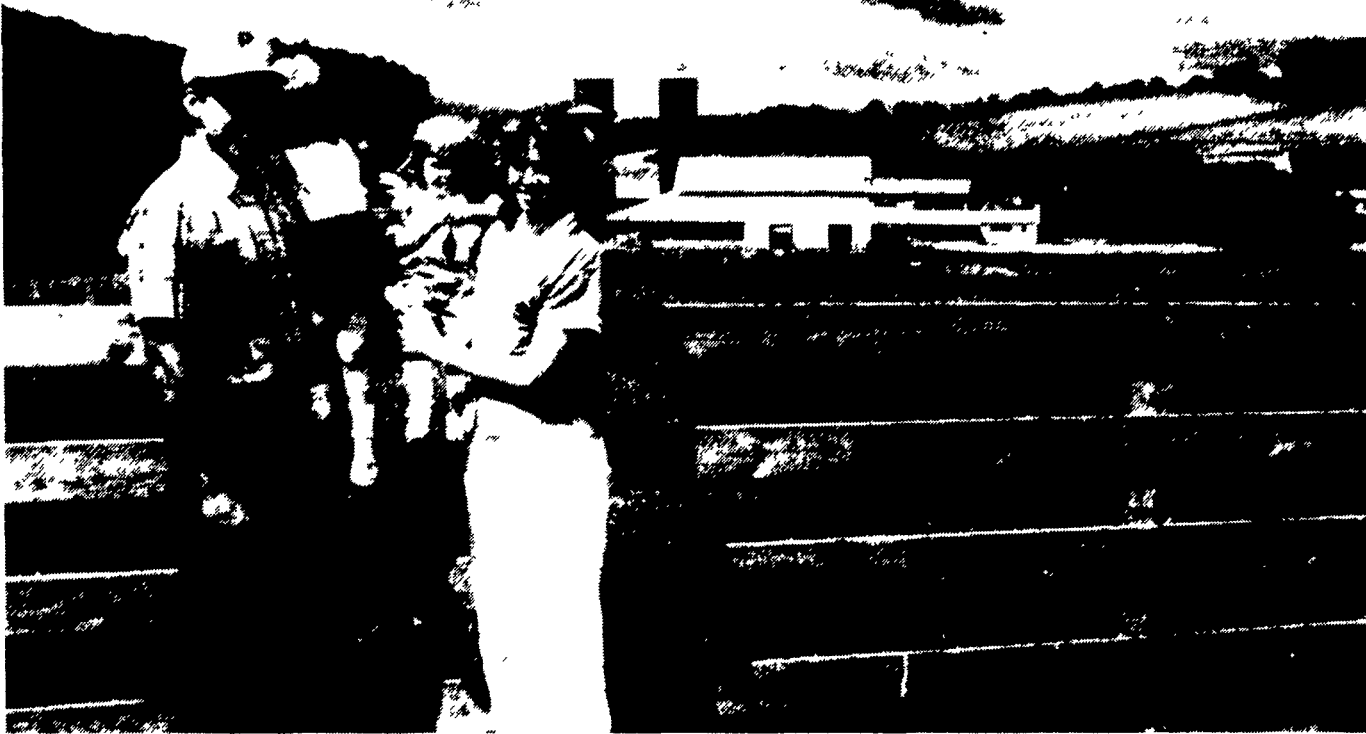
A new 25'x90' silo has just been installed on the farm. Willard Jr. said they expect to fill it with haylage from their 175 acres of alfalfa. They also bale some hay.

A second silo will be filled with corn silage - they harvest 300 acres of corn - and a third structure with high moisture shelled corn.

In all, there are three silos on the farm. When they are all up and running, Willard Jr. plans to produce a TMR (total mixed ration) to be fed in the barn.

With the feed balanced by one of Pennfield's PFR (Precision Formulated Ration) concentrates, he expects to see a significant production increase.

Willard Jr. and Betsy Yoder



Willard Jr. and Betsy Yoder and their daughters, Nicole and Janelle.

Computer Helps Herd of Heifers Hold Its Own

Willard Jr. and Betsy Yoder have 150 cows milking on their farm near Huntingdon, and 52 of them are first calf heifers. That's better than a third of the herd. And whether you call her a first calf heifer or a first lactation cow, one thing's for sure - she's not as



Fresh cows are fed a base TMR and challenged for top milk production with a computer feeder.

productive as she's going to be farther into her working life.

The young herd is the result of a change in ownership in 1989, when the Yoders bought 60 cows from Willard Sr. who, at the time, had about 200 cows on the

farm. The rest of the animals were dispersed. The 60 they bought, plus 25 they already owned, gave Willard and Betsy a starting herd of 85.

The farm, however, with its 500 tillable acres, 100 acres of pasture, 90-stall freestall barn, double-six herringbone parlor, three Harvestores, full-time hired man and a well-stocked equipment shed is set up for a bigger-than-85-cow herd. So, even as they were getting into the business, the Yoders knew they wanted an eventual herd size of 150 cows.

They have, in fact, added 60 animals to the milking string, and they've done it almost entirely by growing their own replacements.

In February of 1990, three months after they took over the herd, the new operators installed a computerized feeding system that doles out grain and pellets to high producing cows according to their production. The grain is high moisture shelled corn. The pellets are a Precision Formulated Ration (PFR) from Pennfield. The

Yoders' PFR is a 32% protein mix with flaked beans.

Every cow in the milking herd gets enough feed in the bunk to support 55 pounds of dairy production. If she goes over that, she gets extra feed from the computer system.

Each cow on the computer wears an electronic device called a transponder around her neck. When she pokes her head into one of the special feeding stations, the transponder sends out a signal to tell the computer which cow is ready to eat.

The computer knows how much extra feed that cow is entitled to, and, if she hasn't eaten her ration for the day, she gets what she's looking for.

"Our DHIA records show a small decline in production," said Willard Jr., "but that's to be expected, I think, if every third cow is in her first lactation."

"Ordinarily in that situation, you could probably look for an even bigger decline. The computer helped us keep production where it is by boosting our high producers even higher."



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