

been fanstastic, by any standard. He said he had been running at 67,000, finished up in September with 108,000, but has been as low as 51,000.

"I was third in the county this last year," Hunsinger said, but added that he can't pinpoint what he is doing, exactly, that is keeping it down.

"To put my finger on one thing . . . we don't know. I dry treat everything. I post dip. Problem cows don't stay here too long. I try to keep cows as clean as possible," he said.

He said he gets his wood shavings from a wood working shop in Montrose.

Other aspects of herd management that Hunsinger said he focuses on includes the number of days a cow stays "open," or not pregnant. "The days open, I really stay on that. the longer they stand there not milking, the more it costs me." His average days open was 112, good enough for the full five points.

He does most all of the breeding, raising almost all of his replacements. His average services per pregnancy is 2.3, which is good enough to earn a point.

"I do a fairly decent job with heifers, most freshen at 2 years or thereafter," he said, noting that while the recommendations are to

freshen heifers at 24 months, and his average is 27 months, he has a reason for the relatively late average age at first calving.

"I like my heifers to freshen in the fall. I have more time to spend with them, and I think it's a little easier on them in colder weather, there are no flies, parasites," he said.

There are other things that could be changed at the Hunsinger farm, but he said he won't change things unless it adds to the overall operation.

There could be some future change in operation, depending on how committed the governors are who signed the pact to save the Delaware River Bay. Hunsinger said he is waiting for some cost-sharing funds, similar to the Chesapeake Bay program, to put in a manure collection system.

Currently he spreads manure every day with a conventional spreader. "That's something that's going to change in the future," he said. "We had that in mind. When we built the barn, we were figuring on building a lagoon," he said.

But other than that, Hunsinger said he has no real major changes in direction planned for the farm.

"At this point, I have no changes planned," he said. "I can't see getting any bigger. I'm more or less happy where I am. The only thing,

is if my sons decide to stay, then some years down the road, we're going to have to expand. Other than that, I'm content, though I would like to build a heifer facility here at home."

Home is the 300-acre farm, located in the hilly, northeastern corner of Susquehanna County. Most of the farm acreage is woodland, with about 115 acres tillable. Hunsinger rents fields on two other farms to grow mostly corn.

With his wife Pat, sons Leslie, 12, and Brandon, 10, helping out with whatever chores they can, his father Dewey Sr. doing the majority of the feeding, the family farm operates well, he said.

In fact, it is a century farm that dates back directly to 1867. Hunsinger said he knew that the farm was in the family for more than 100 years, but didn't apply for the

century farm award until two years ago, after getting the research and documentation needed.

"My original descendants came here in 1814, but the farm was out of our family for a year — I think the owner was killed in the Civil War," he said. The family bought the farm back however in 1867 and regained the family legacy on that farm.

NAILE Announces Steer Show Winners

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Grand champion single steer and grand champion pen of three in the feeder steer show went to Highview Farm of Hillsboro, Ohio.

Kohler Farms, Kohler, Wis., had reserve grand champion single steer, with Jack and Lori Sievers, Randolph, Neb., winning reserve grand champion pen of three. Premiums for the winners were \$300 champion single steer, \$150 reserve champion single steer, \$500 champion pen of three, and \$250 reserve champion pen of three.

Feeder steer entries were up this year, even though the economy has created a lower market for the feeders steers. Close to 30 single

steers were exhibited along with 30 pens of three. Though the show is in its 16th year, this is only the second year singles and pens of three have been exhibited. In previous years, only pen of five classes were shown.

While the commercial market may be down, the interest for these animals is still high. Jim Claycomb, ring announcer for the show, said, "The purpose of these animals is to be fitted and showed as prospects for steers. People buy them now, having in mind to prepare them for next year's shows."

John Hanly, superintendent of the feeder steer show, said, "Agriculture is the backbone of our country. It will always be there.

The beef industry looks to be in demand for a long time. Americans enjoy eating beef and there is more demand nationwide for beef".

All cattle entered in the feeder steer show and shown were sold at auction during the evening.

The sale is an opportunity for youths to purchase quality animals for their 4-H and FFA projects.



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