

Penn-Jersey Seminar

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generations of dairymen — the father George, brothers Ken and Phil, and Ken's son, K. Jason.

The top producing herd in their area for a large farm, the Herrington business produces an average 23,696 pounds of 3.2 percent protein milk, and 789 pounds of fat.

That's on a 410-head milking herd.

The Harringtons describe their herd as a commercial herd — only about 30 animals are registered. They do their own breeding and, as of two years ago, have severely limited the purchasing of replacement animals.

According to Phil to tighten the control on preventing contagious diseases coming in on strange animals and infecting the herd.

They pre-dip, post-dip and milk three times per day. The ranged in somatic cell count over the past year from a low of 85,000 in the tank up to the highest of 160,000.

The cattle housing and milking operation is comprised of a large free-stall facility and a double-12, rapid exit system and a footbath located outside of the rapid exit

doorway.

For crops, Ken's main area of concern on the farm, along with computer crunching, the family cultivates two farms — the gravelly soiled home farm of about 500 acres and a 390-acre farm purchased two years ago.

Last year, they raised 800 acres of corn and 500 acres of hay.

The operation has been changing and growing along with the addition of generations.

After installing the freestall building, the Herringtons went to three-times a day milking and feeding a total mixed ration.

Phil said he kept close track of the results and calculated an increase of milk volume by 16 percent, while he fed only an additional 10 percent of TMR.

To illustrate how the herd has grown with the addition of operations, Phil said that in 1987 they milked 326 cows; in 1988, 364 cows; in 1989, 370 cows; and in 1990, 392 cows.

"Now we milk over 400, because of the milking facility. We can milk 100 cows an hour with two people. I would like to milk another 100," Phil said, adding that after the facilities for a large herd were built, it became almost like a constant drive to use it to maximum efficiency.

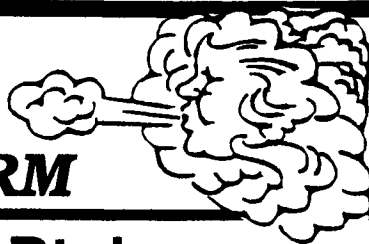
He said the extra 100 cows could be handled easily with the 2-year-old parlor, but additional free-stall housing would have to be constructed.

One of the most frequently used dairy tools at Herrington Farms isn't a tractor, pitchfork or other common instrument of farming — it's their computers.



The three-generations of Herringtons in Troy, New York, are, from the left, K. Jason (Ken's son), brothers Phil and Ken and father George. The Herringtons milk more than 400 Holsteins and have a rolling herd average above 23,000 pounds of milk. Ken is to represent the business during a panel discussion at the upcoming Penn-Jersey Dairy Expo.

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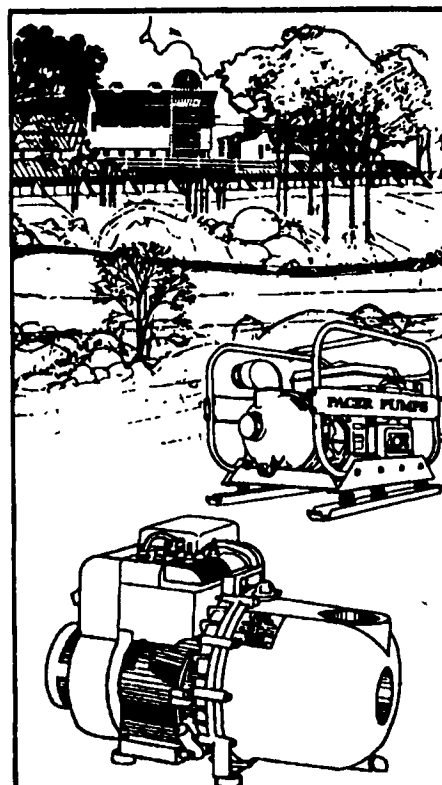
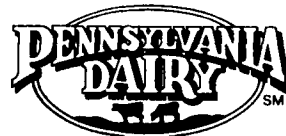
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