

Levys Attribute Success To Feeding

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Bedford Co. Correspondent

CLEARVILLE (Bedford Co.)— James and Karla Levy of Clearville RD 2 are proud of their farming success they have attained in only six years.

"If we would just get a decent growing season two years in a row I think we could do very well," said Karla. "Since we've lived here, we've had one good year. The rest have been either very dry or very wet."

James grew up on a farm in the Clearville area. However, when the family farm barn burned, his father sold off the land.

"Farming was something I wanted to do," he explained. "So, Karla and I started looking for a place of our own. When we found this one, we bought in quickly."

While Karla did not grow up on a farm, she said she has adapted to farm life and, "most of the time," enjoys it.

This year, the Levys won the top DHIA award for cow protein production, the "Best Production Progress" award and the Herdsmen award (a new Bedford County award).

The Levys farm is on 143 acres with about 90 being farmed. They milk 30 registered Holsteins and have 35 adult cows. There are an additional 45 to 50 head of young cattle.

James attributes the production increase this year to feed. "We use as good of forage as possible," he said. "And, we raise our own. We do buy most of our shelled corn. We also have a good genetic potential and breed for superior cows."

"We thank Agway for their advice in our protein award," Levy said. "We listened to what they had to say regarding a feed program and, it worked. We listen to all suggestions, then, we keep an open mind and think about them."

"In 1990, we had a good growing season and that also helped us to win these awards. The cows took off and started to do great."

The Levys feel that the 1991 drought was a bit of a setback. "For about six months we had almost no rain," Karla comments. "We only got about 50% of our corn crop."

James and Karla run the farm with no outside help. James does the field and heavy work. Karla milks with their pipeline milking system and the milk is sent to the Maryland/Virginia Co-op.

Their two sons, James, 10, and Joshua, 7, both help. "James is getting big enough to be a good help," Karla said. "He tells us we couldn't have won these awards without him."

Since Joshua was only one year old when the Levys bought their farm, Karla said she remembers milking with a baby hanging on her leg.


The boys both belong to the Chapman's Run 4-H group.

"Outside of helping the boys with their 4-H projects, we have very few outside activities," Karla said. "There just isn't time."

When the local elementary school had a Christmas play, it meant that Karla had to rearrange her whole day to get the milking done in time to attend. "We still ended up sitting in the back of the auditorium," she said.



James and Karla Levy stand outside at their farm with their dog "Goose."



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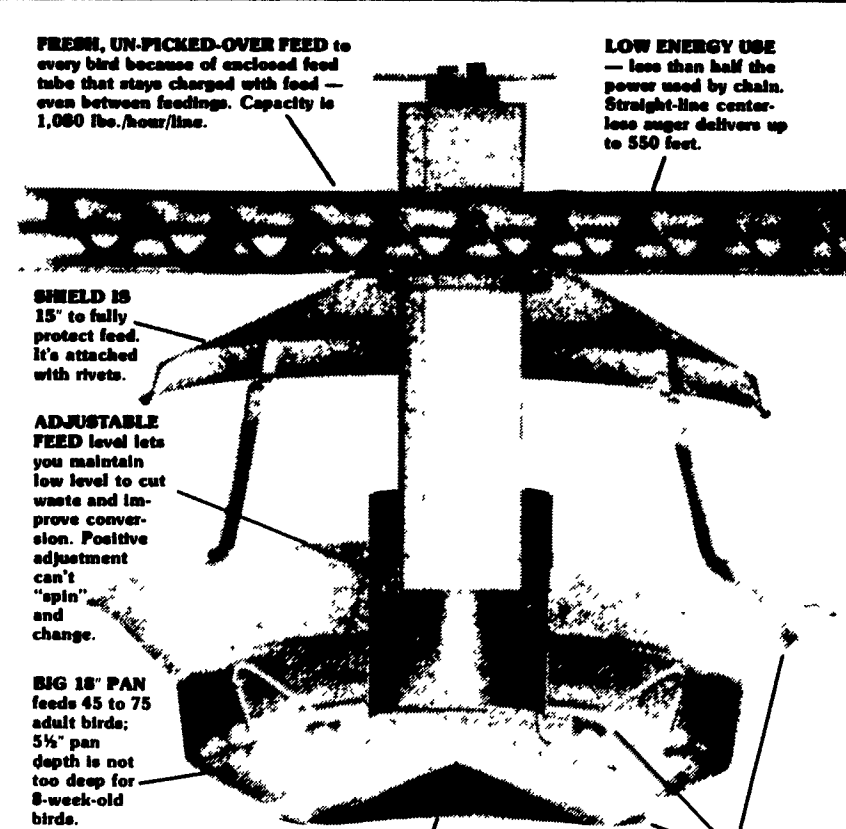
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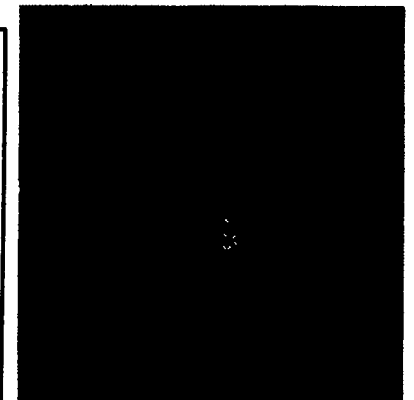
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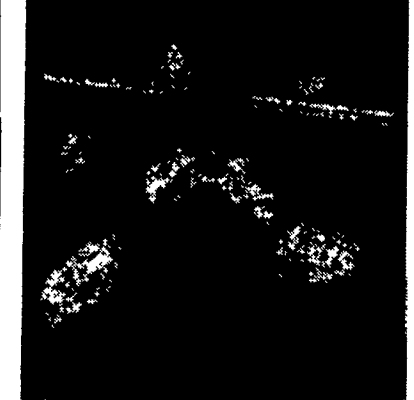
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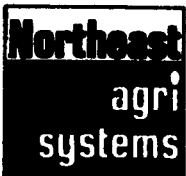


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