



On the right, Dale and Patti Maulfair stand with their youngest son David in front of the garden at their home in northern Lebanon County. The Maulfairs are opening their home July 11 for the state Ayrshire Field Day, during which there will be judging, a tour of the farm, family activities and an opportunity to socialize. This pastoral picture of Ayrshires and Holsteins is the pasture of the Dale Maulfair farm.



Lebanon Farm Family Welcomes Ayrshire Breeders

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Lancaster Farming Staff
JONESTOWN (Lebanon
Co.) — Dale Maulfair is a famil-

iar sight to those who attended the state Farm Show dairy shows for the past several years. He was the lean, bearded figure,

leading a sharp-featured Ayrshire around the ring in competition for the title of grand champion of the dairy breeds.

And while his cows were the figurative bridesmaid every time, never the bride, Maulfair persists in being one of the state's premier

Ayrshire breeders.

But competing against the more numerous Hostein breed is never easy for any of the "colored breed" enthusiasts. And the judges saw what was in the ring — a lot of near perfection.

The supreme champion title went to a Guernsey.

Maulfair Acres' cows are delights to see, according to groups which come through to tour, or the youth groups which come through to judge several classes of Ayrshires.

Just having the opportunity to see several, tough classes of the red and white, multi-patched dairy cattle is a treat these days.

Guernseys stole the show for awhile in the American dairy cattle history. Jerseys have gained great leaps. And the Holstein has garnered the most support.

So where does the Ayrshire fit?

Dear to the heart of Dale and Patti Maulfair.

The Ayrshire is a family tradition at the Maulfairs. Although Dale says the breed is limited in the choice of bulls and that there are other breeding setbacks compared to some other breeds, the red & white fine-boned, delicate Ayrshire is his choice.

The breed's milk production average is coming up. The Maulfair herd runs an average around 15,000 pounds of milk.

It is also a smaller breed, and eats less than the Holstein, so a direct comparison on something as milk average is not a fair measure of the breed's ability to pay for itself as a dairy animal.

And that is probably the point in where Ayrshires fit in. They have good component possibilities, they have enough meat to be valuable, despite the meat buying prejudices against dairy cattle which aren't black and white, and they have good temperament.

While perhaps not the most docile breed, the Ayrshire is not known for as many highly strung individuals as some of the others.

But the Maulfairs are not snobs. They have half Holsteins and half Ayrshires at the 230-acre operation. Dale just purchased his father's Holstein herd last fall.

The two breeds get along well, he said, not showing some of the disparity in pasture authority which commonly occurs in mixing breeds such as Jerseys and Holsteins.

On July 11, the Maulfairs are opening up their farm to Ayrshire breeders across the state. They said they expect about 175 people, but more would be welcome.

The Maulfair farm is unique and typical at the same time.

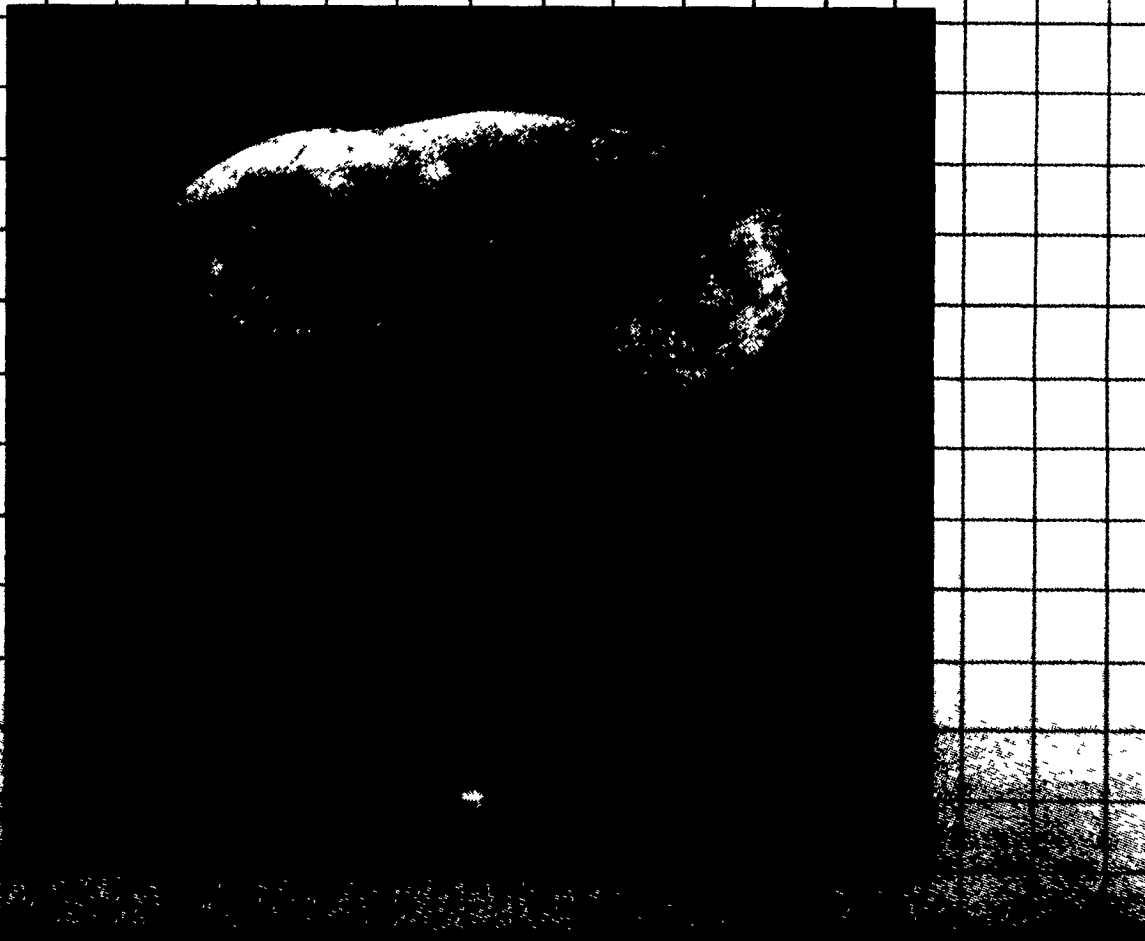
Set back a not-quite-secondary road in between residential areas in the northern Lebanon County area, the Maulfair property carries remnants of an older Lebanon County rurality. There are the old trees seeming to hold the ground in place and views of pasture and croplands without power lines and house roofs cluttering up the picture.

On the bench on the porch near the front door are several dozen eggs and an honor box system of paying for the eggs, laid by a couple of hens, which are mainly for family use.

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