

CLARION

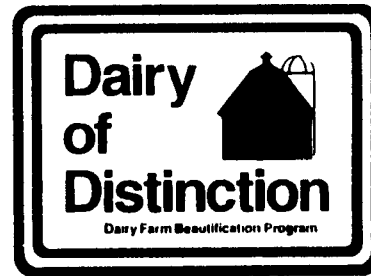


Vern Belchner remembers the horrors of the day back in 1987 when the helper barn built down on the Sandy Ridge Farm. But with the help of the local Holstein club, the PFA, local Amish neighbors, and friends and family, the "barn raising" restored the farm and a new freestall barn was in place. In 1990, Sandy Ridge, operated by Vern and Mark Belchner, purchased a nearby farm, which brought tillage acreage to 200. Another 228 acres include some rented land and about 200 of them are in woodlands. Much of the location is "real sandy, gravelly ground," said Vern, from which they have to try to make haylage. The cattle includes 66 milking registered and grade Holsteins and 66 helpers. Milking is from a freestall barn, stanchions to a pipeline. The farm also includes a 100-hog farrow-to-finish operation. The farm, a dairy since 1909, bottled and sold milk for a few years in the 1970s. Vern farms with wife, Diane, and children Vallery, 10; Lora, 8; and Bradley, 5, "who likes to help a lot," said Vern. Also, Mark's family helps, with wife Theresa and children Joshua, 5; Bethany, 3; and Lyssa, 2 mos.

CLEARFIELD



A new manure holding pit was recently installed for Knob Farm, operated by Jeff Wriglesworth in partnership with father, Robert. The 210-acre farm (included rented land) is home to about 60 head of registered and grade Holstein (about 50 young stock). The Wriglesworths operated a double-4 milking parlor, and average 22,000 lbs., 800f, 691p. The farm, in the family since 1864 (a Century Farm application is in the works), switched from Guernseys in 1950s to Holsteins. Dale McCracken helps on a part-time basis, and Jeff's son, Brian, 10, helps on the farm. About 100 acres of the farm are in alfalfa, 80 acres are in corn, and 20 acres are in small grains, with the rest for haymaking.



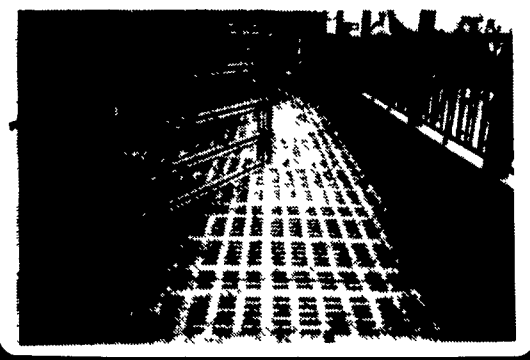
Slatted Beef Barn



Free-Stall Cow Barn



Slatted Heifer Barn



Slatted Hog Barn



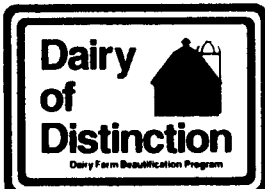
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