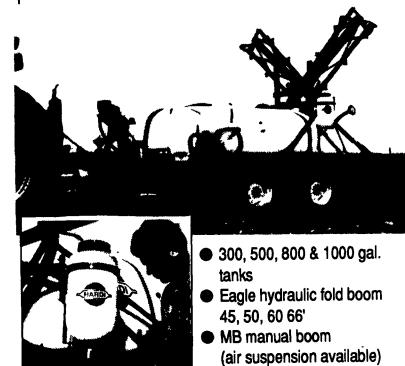
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# Mase Leads

### (Continued from Page A32)

"It's a shame there aren't more breeders," he said. "The Brown Swiss really has a lot of potential. All we need to do is get more work done on them and build up the interest."

Right now, he said he has an Excellent cow on dry lot for six months and she's dragging the herd average down. She's been open for about 400 days. But he won't cull her because her type and past lactations were so good. She is too valuable to Mase for genetics and the future of the breed to cull for strictly reproductive problems.

Mase said he doesn't dislike Holsteins, he just likes Brown Swiss more. He started with two calves 20 years ago as his 4-H project. They were gifts from his older sister, from a dam she had purchased for less than \$100 as a calf.

One prize calf, a 2-month-old, sold for more than \$4,000 at a Brown Swiss Association Mid-Atlantic Calf Sale. It was the greatgranddaughter of his 4-H project calf that can be traced to a herd owned by William Daubert of Pine Grove.

The cows are all fed the same," Mase said. "There's no color difference as far as when it comes to feeding them. I feed according to milk

# **Ardrossan Farm Top Ayrshire Manager**

#### ANDY ANDREWS Lancaster Farming Staff

VILLANOVA (Delaware Čo.) — "I know this herd very, very well," said Helen Hope Montgomery Scott, owner of Ardrossan Farm. "I know and name every cow. I'm in the barn every day."

A combination of good record keeping and watching the day-by-day production records of cows contribute to herd improvement. And those factors were the ingredients in the honors fostered on the Ardrossan Ayrshire Farm, which was recognized as top managed Ayrshire herd, according to the Pennsylvania DHIA.

Ardrossan was founded in 1910 when Col. Robert L. Montgomery, Helen's father, came to Philadelphia from Scotland. The herd prefix came from the town of Ardrossan, Scotland. At the time, Montgomery brought over nine cows and one bull.

production.

"I feed a total TMR and then topdress strictly on production," he said. "I don't see color when I go down the barn feeding cows. I look at milked weight."

The production from his cows is not from a magic formula. Mase said genetics, luck, and care combine to create high-producing animals.

Sire selection is varied as to source, he said. "With Brown Swiss, it's a wide open ball field. There's really no set stud there. So, I have to go with selection with the Swiss. We even get some (semen) privately from some other breeders."

Gary Mase farms with wife Patty, son Garrett, daughter Lisa, and son Anthony.

"DHIA helps me with my culling. I used DHIA for culling and for feeding; for fine tuning my ration as far as feeding individual cows. And it helps with the Brown Swiss, to (have records to) market.

"Probably the biggest reason I go with DHIA, rather than buying my own meter myself to find out what (a cow is) milking," he said. "You have to keep records on registered stock to merchandise breeding stock, and occassionally use records.'

The farm milks 120 all-registered Ayrshires from tiestall to pipeline, and manages another 180 head of replacement stock. Averages are a little more than 20,300 pounds of milk, accord-

ing to Scott. They raise their own alfalfa and grass hay, but purchase the grain. A TMR is used on the cattle. Ardrossan, under general manager Chester

Billheim, farms about 500 acres, and other 250 acres are in woodland. Herd manager is Heinz Mielke. There are a total of another five full and part-time herdsmen.

The farm's seedstock has been built up gradually, according to Scott. Since the farm's conception, they have purchased no dams and use several bulls on the farm.

But "taking an active part" in the operation and management of the farm, according to the owner, and keeping good records are keys to successful herd management.

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