

The world famous Walkup Valiant Lou Ella (EX92, GMD-DOM) is the dam of Leadsman and has many descendants in the Rothrock Golden Holstein herd.



One of the stops on the Lancaster County Holstein Tour was Keystone Farm at Easton. In the photo, part of the Seipt family, Donald, Timothy, Doug, and Gerry visit with members of the tour committee, Steve Hershey and Dave Kulp, and Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County agent.

Lancaster Holstein Tour

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you into manicured lawns and historic farm buildings. Inside the barn, the beautiful well-conditioned cows told you this herd is well managed.

"It's a small family operation," Zimmerman said. "But we try to keep a few good cows around."

These few good cows, 43 in number, just happen to include 14 excellents, 25 very goods and 4 good plus babies in roomy tie stalls. The BAA is 110 for type and the rolling herd average for milk is 19539m 791f 645p.

Two Excellent 94 cows take your eye. A homebred 15 year-old is 5E and still looks excellent after 10 lacations up to 20,125m 5.1% 1021f. The other Excellent is a young cow with 4y 23,873m 4.0% 929f. She looked like the perfect type cow.

KEYSTONE FARM

The well-known Keystone Farm of the Donald Seipt family at Easton was the second stop. Longevity is the trade-mark of the Keystone herd. Last year three cows in the herd went over 300,000 lbs. lifetime and at least 12 other cows in the herd are over 200,000 lbs.

Over the years Keystone has developed 80 excellent cows. At present out of 90 Registered Holsteins in the herd, 21 are excellent. The BAA is 108.6 and the rolling herd average is over 26,000 lbs. with many individual records over 35,000lbs.

For example, Cola (EX) has 4y 37,423m 3.7% 1373f 3.2% 1205p. An old cow, whose name we missed in our notes, has 10y 39,789 3.6% 1429f. Shannon (2E) has 5y 35,570m 3.5% 1258f 3.4% 1206p.

The Seipt family has a three-way partership with two sons Don Jr., and Doug included in the operation. "We have always felt that getting production is not nearly as hard as breeding good type individuals," Seipt said. "So, we have been cautious about the type of bulls we use.

At Keystone, the calves are raised in a special "motel" that is open in front but well protected with an overhang roof. The farm office is filled with trophies, ribbons and photos that tell of the herd's top show and production achievements.

ROTHROCK FARMS

Then the two buses went to Rothrock Farms at Kempton, where many of the top genetics in the Holstein breed have been purchased to assemble high indexes as the foundation to sell high priced offspring. The part of the herd that is merchandised nationally and internationally is housed in a ultra-modern dairy barn with 40 tie-stalls and 12 box stalls that line the outer wall. One of the other four has milking facilities as well.

In the first box stall of the show barn is the famous Walkup Valiant Lou Ella (EX 92 GMD-DOM) with 3y 33,480m 4.6% 1547f 3.4% 1139p and index numbers that reach the sky. Lou Ella is the dam of Leadsman and has a full sister and many daughters, grand daughters, and embryos in the herd.

The top 10 percent of the herd is flushed, and these embryos are implanted in the bottom 80 percent of the herd. Embryos are sometimes even planted in Excellent cows, if the resulting offspring will be worth more than a natural born calf. A few cow families are propagated that include eight or nine generations of Excellent dams.

Rockroth Golden Holsteins are world-renowned for famous cattle. The barn features an office, two apartments and a water-cooled ventilation system for the comfort of the cows. An open calf-raising facility is also part of the setup. Bruce Rothrock, a successful



Beautiful udders in the Paul Zimmerman family herd, from left, Paula, 2E94, 4y 23,873m 4.0% 929f; Maria EX90, 3y 22,444m 3.3% 742f; and Mariene, E92, 6y 19,490m 3.4% 808f.

businessman from Allentown, set started the herd in the early 1980's. Jack Miller joined the operation soon thereafter and as manager plays a major role in the herd's success.

KISSLING FARM

At the last stop of the day, the Lancaster tour visited the Hidden View Farm of Tim and Teresa Kissling. Here the rows of beautiful udders and cows with capacity and dairy type provided a fitting climax to a day of looking at beautiful cows.

Teresa is the herds person and the herd's success has given Hid-

den View world-wide contracts for bulls and embryos. The Marcy family is outstanding. Production and type go hand in hand. For example, the Excellent Clover cow has 4y 40,438m 3.3% 1322f 2.9% 1169p. The rolling herd average is 25,199m 904f 812p.

Tim also has a consulting business for nutrition and helps 300 other dairy farmers from Kansas to New York and Pennsylvania with feeding programs.

"You can feed cows all haylage or all corn silage or any combination in between," Tim said. "It makes no difference what forage set-up you have as long as you balance the ration to go with it.

"We have no secrets, nothing

special. We just try to get a balanced diet using what feeds are available on the farm."

Groups of Lancaster farmers spent quite some time gathered around Tim asking questions about their own feeding programs. But time ran out. It was getting dark and time to head home.

When the buses arrived back at the Farm and Home Center, it was too late for the participants to be of much help at home for the evening milking. But the experience was quite valuable. One dairyman in summarizing his experience was heard to say, "If the dairy farmers we visited can do it (get top production and type from their cows), why can't I?"



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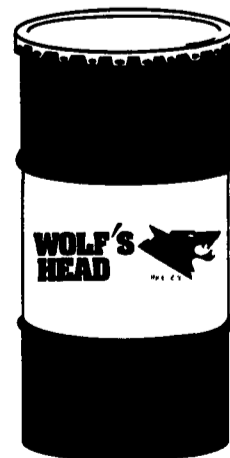


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