



Jennifer and her dad Ken discuss the work needed to be done on the family's 400-acre farm with 260 Holsteins. "My dad always taught me to use my head for more than a hat rack," Jennifer said of the many challenges she faces when working on the farm.

milk in the bucket," said Ken, who is inclined to stop the practice of registering the cattle. "It only helps if you're selling cattle and we are not into selling. We are in it for milk."

His wife and daughter disagree. "You can't show animals at the fair if they aren't registered. Who knows how many grandchildren will come along and want to show? A lot of money and time will be wasted if we have cream-of-the-crop cows that aren't registered. At \$4 an animal, we aren't talking a lot of money to register," Barb said.

Consequently, mother and daughter work together in registering the cattle.

A full-time herdsman, who they

say does a fantastic job, is employed for many years by the Grimes. Ken's 81-year-old father, who lives across the road and from whom the Grimes bought the farm, helped with chores until last year.

Jon would like to increase milking to 250 head. The Grimes are researching the pros and cons. To do so, the family would need to add an additional full time herdsman and an additional milker. The dairy to which they ship, Guers Tumbling Run Dairy, would be unable to take the excess milk and it would need to be shipped to another dairy. At present, 90 percent of the Grimes' milk is class one and bottled.

Full housing would help hold production costs down, and it's

easier to manage big than small, both father and son agreed.

The Grimes are taking a look at their housing and feeding facility. The cows are under too much stress because the temperature is cold, and when leaving the holding pen, and the cows must come down steps that are sometimes icy when entering the pole barn. According to slope recommendations, it's too steep to get to the trough.

"The cows are eating only two times a day when they should be eating six or more," Jon said.

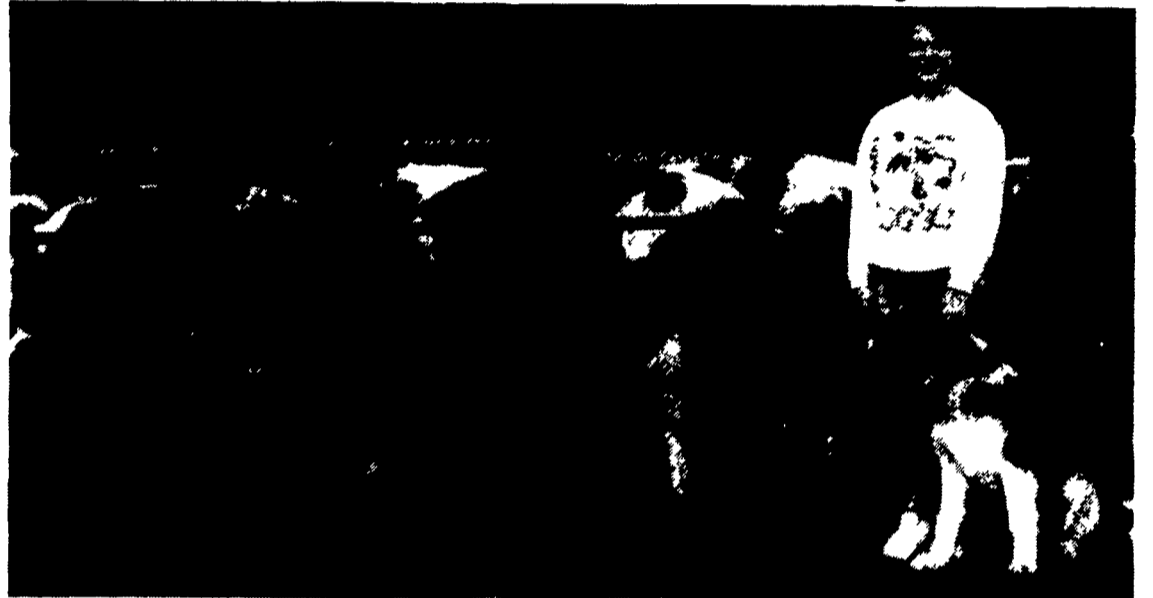
"It's better to have the cows at a natural graze than head in a trough," Jon said. "Now it's two feet higher and it isn't comfortable."

To remedy the problem, it would require ripping out the free stalls and putting headlocks at the back of curbs.

The elder Grimes prefers to take
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Open calf hutches result in much healthier calves, according to Jennifer.



"I was brought up to believe that there is only one way to do things and that is the right way," said the state dairy princess of the chores she does around the farm.

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