

## Lancaster Holstein Club Tours Franklin County

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Lancaster Farming Staff  
**CHAMBERSBURG** (Franklin Co.) — A busload of Lancaster County Holstein enthusiasts toured four Franklin County farms Tuesday and were provided with a look at a variety of operational philosophies and setups.

The tour, an annual event sponsored by the Lancaster County Holstein Club, visited Fountain Farm and Tower Vue Holsteins, located south of Carlisle; Tri-Day

Farm in Shippensburg; Tidy-Brook Farm in Greencastle; and Stoner Hijos Farm in Mercersburg. Larry Kennel, DVM, of Mount Joy, was tour guide. Kennel does flushing and embryo transfer work and is familiar with several of the operations visited.

The range of Holstein work demonstrated during the tour provided a contrast between breeding for index against breeding for type, the types of facilities which can be used to achieve, and techniques



Alan Meyers, left, talks about the pedigree, production and marketing opportunities on his Elton daughters, which carry a high index for protein index, while father Mark, stands at the doorway, and tour members look on.



Though not as fancy as some get, the freestall facility at Tri-Day Farm provides comfort and cleanliness for their herd of registered Holsteins.



This 3-year-old, 86-point Elton daughter is Tidy-Brook Elton Steph-ET, one of many daughters out of Tidy-Brook Sally Ned Boy at the Tidy-Brook Farm owned by Mark and Alan Meyers. Sally's Elton daughters currently lead the registered Holstein breed in predicted transmitting ability for protein.



Harry Thompson talks about his breeding philosophies with members of the Lancaster County Holstein tour to Franklin County.

employed to achieve success.

Most all farms visited are either well known for show successes or for genetic successes. Except for the Stoner Hijos Farm, all farms were more traditionally sized.

The exception, Stoner Hijos Farm, consists of a new commercial freestall, drive-through facility for 500 cows, a double-16 milking parlor with rapid exit and they farm 1,500 acres. They also maintain a 500 hog operation.

The first farm visited, Fountain Farm and Tower Vue Holsteins, is a 500-acre, two-farm setup run by the Harry Thompson and David Walton families.

The operation featured a 73 tie-stall facility and a double-four milking parlor, built in 1989.

Thompson has been using a new quick-thaw method of embryo transfer under the guidance of Dr. William Pettit.

The Thompsons had farmed in a joint operation on 125 acres in New Jersey, but were surrounded by real estate developments, shopping malls and an industrial park.

They sold that last remnant of rurality and with their share purchased the 500 acres in Franklin County. The soil is much different,

however. The first year the farmed in Franklin County they had a complete crop failure because of drought. On the old farm, they never had a crop failure.

Further south, Curtis and Ann Day and children operate Tri-Day Farm in Shippensburg, and have been involved with youth programs and educational events, in addition to showing.

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Members of the Lancaster County Holstein tour group examine the calf-raising facilities at Fountain Farm and Tower Vue Holsteins.



From the left, a pair of Excellent-90 Holsteins at Tri-Day Farm are Tri-Day Starbuck Sahara and Tri-Day Starbuck Roxie.