

Bitlers Prepare To Represent Pennsylvania Holstein



The calves know its time to eat, and seem as though they can't wait for Phoebe Bitler to finish pouring the allocations.

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else would want too," David said. "We sell 20 to 30 head a year between bulls, some heifers and young cows. We're satisfied with that type of program."

The couple does classify; and a person who does animal analysis stop by a couple times a year and analyze some of the calves through the AAA program.

"And," David said, "I fish for information from any semen jock-

ey that comes in here. I try to get to other farms, too," he said.

While the Bitlers had showed when growing up, and also when they first started farming, they had since stopped because of the time restrictions.

However, they intend to be getting to some show rings. Son Jesse, 10, is starting 4-H and is going to get into showing, as long as conditions permit.

He is going along to the national

convention also, which the Bitlers said they see also as a vacation for them. Phoebe said they expect to have a full itinerary.

How the couple got involved with Holsteins is mostly through Phoebe. David grew up on a farm south of Little Britain with Guernseys and Jerseys, and he bought his father's Guernsey herd when he first started dairying. In 1979, the Bitlers sold that herd and pretty well switched to Hoslsteins.



Phoebe Bitler milks cows in she and husband David's 80-tie stall barn. Notice the shredded paper bedding.

"I still like to see a good Jersey cow. I like Jerseys," David said. Phoebe said she has always been a Holstein enthusiast.

And so that is what they switched to, after farming at his parents farm for a couple of years, before buying into Phoebe's home farm and going into partnership with her brother, who sold his share to them several years ago.

In 1966 her father expanded the farm to 80 tie stalls. In 1981, the Bitlers added the last silo — a 20 by 80 structure — a Virginia style heifer barn and one of the manure pits.

In 1986, the partnership with her

brother ended.

In 1987 they built a manure pit for the dairy barn.

1982 saw modernization of the couple's beef feeding facility, which is an extended area to the dairy barn. "Bulls are kept in two pens and then there is an area for springers to run," David said.

The two are involved in numerous other projects and activities, but appear to be under control. And happy.

Look for them at the national convention, at the state conventions, activities, church or next year's Holstein activities.

They'll be the couple smiling and talking with people.

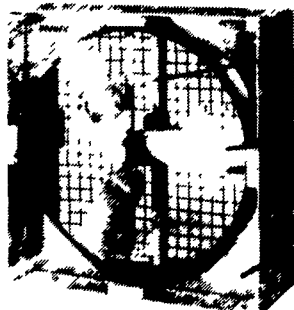
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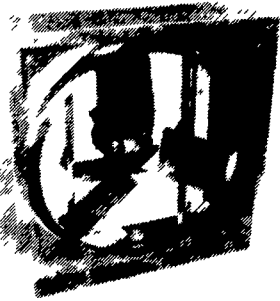


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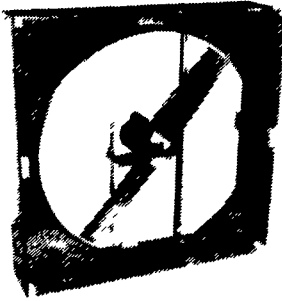
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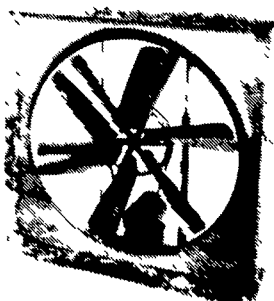
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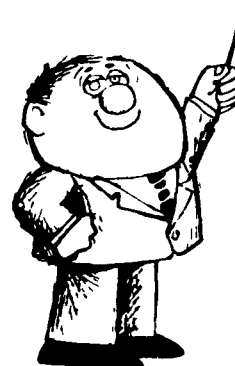
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