

## Pa.DHIA Herd Management Award

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sustained production, mastitis managements, overall somatic cell linear score, and reproductive management, including average days open, services per pregnancy, and age at first calving.

David and Martha Pool are the operators of Fantasyland Farm, a 60-milking cow dairy they run on an 140-acre operation near Bernville the couple rents from Reuben and Lillian Getz.

The couple has three children, Lynette, 14, Elliot, 10, and 8-week-old Caitlyn.

The two oldest are involved in 4-H dairy projects and Lynette showed the first place senior 2-year-old at Kutztown, which was the reserve grand champion of the open show and the county 4-H roundup. She said it was an accomplishment after recovering from an accident in which she was struck by a van.

Elliot also showed cattle and had an intermediate yearling that earned him some recognition.

The Pools moved to their present location last November from another nearby, but smaller farm they rented, after moving to Pennsylvania from southern New

Jersey, where David was raised on a 100-cow dairy farm.

As of this week, the registered Holstein 60-cow herd averaged 26,841 pounds of milk, with 957 pounds, or 3.6 percent, fat, and 875 pounds, or 3.3 percent, protein.

According to David, in one year's time, the herd average increased more than 3,000 pounds of milk.

Pool said that at the previous rental farm, he and his wife milked 42 cows in a tie-stall facility, and had a rolling average of 23,868 pounds milk, 3.5 percent fat and 3.1 percent protein.

They were feeding a totally mixed ration (TMR) at the old rental farm, but the biggest change was in nutritionists and raw feed, according to David.

At the previous farm, as part of the rental agreement, the Pools used the landlord's nutritional services and grains and forages.

Since moving to the Getz farm, the Pools have been using Tim Kissling as a nutritionist. Kissling is an independent nutritionist who also raises dairy cattle, and who happens to live nearby.

According to Pool, Kissling has helped tremendously in getting the

feed balances correct and in being able to correct quickly, without attempting to sell a branded product.

"We owe a lot to Tim," David said. "He's on the ball and he doesn't sell anything but himself."

In addition, Kissling and Pool both do body scoring of the herd so that his cattle stay in top shape while producing high quantities of quality milk.

"(Body scoring is) probably one of the most important things to Tim," David said of body scoring. "I haven't had a problem with con-

dition, even with high production."

A TMR mixer and an automatic feeding cart, along with a home-ground top-dress are part of the feeding program. David checks moisture content when changes in loads of forages occur, or other changes seem to occur.

Somatic cell count had been a little bit of a problem at the new farm for the Pools, until switching to a different teat pre- and post-milking solution. Also changed was that the first teat dip, which didn't seem to be as effective, employed a dip cup application.

The treatment the Pools use now is sprayed on.

Right now the herd's running an average of about a 170,000 somatic cell count.

As is well-known, the infectious disease "strawberry wart" has been affecting herds around the state and throughout the dairy industry. When it first appeared on the scene several years ago, experts were unsure whether the disease was infectious or not and what could be done to treat it.

The disease has affected the

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The dairy herd at Fantasyland Farm is owned by David and Martha Pool and is situated in a protected valley in Berks County. The farm was tied for the top Pa.DHIA herd management award.

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