

# University Of Delaware Herd A Model

The University of Delaware dairy herd thrives in an unlikely location: a suburban setting in Newark, Del., across the street from an automobile manufacturing plant and next to commuter train tracks. But the 100 milk cows don't seem to mind. With a rolling herd average of 21,000

pounds of milk, and a very low incidence of mastitis, their production and general health seem to indicate a certain obliviousness to the suburban development that surrounds them. And the extra attention they get from students eager for hands-on experience seems a bonus.

Richard Morris, herd manager since 1986, reports that the herd is 80 percent Holsteins. A handful each of Jersey, Brown Swiss, Guernsey and Ayrshire cows make up the balance. With more than 1 million dairy cows within a 100-mile radius of the college's herd, the management techniques are of interest to dairy operators. Morris says good, solid management practices, nothing fancy, are responsible for the herd's success.

"Our mastitis incidence is very low," he says. "I attribute that to keeping the animals clean. The free stalls are well-bedded and kept dry, and we keep the alleys scraped. Our cows have access to pasture; this gets them off of concrete and contributes to overall foot health. We don't do anything special...just follow yearly vaccination schedules like any other successful dairy farmer."

Five buildings make up the operation, a milking parlor, research barn, free stall barn, a combination dry cow and heifer barn, and a calf barn.

"The milking parlor is a single

8 herringbone," Morris explains. "The cows wear a transponder collar so the computer can identify them when they are milked and fed. Their grain is dispensed electronically based on the amount of milk the cow produced the previous day."

Because every cow is identified by computer, Morris has a jump on identifying any cows that are off their feed before major problems develop. The cows are also fed corn, alfalfa and wheat silage produced on the farm.

"For feed studies, we use a separate barn," says Morris. "There the silage is measured by hand to keep track of intake per day. The barn currently accommodates 20 cows. But by the end of November an expansion to include a total of 30 cows should be completed."

Another important part of the operation is the calf building that houses calves for their first two to three months. A computerized nurser meets the calves sucking and nutritional needs.

"Each calf wears a transponder that signals the computer the

amount of milk they can have each day," he says. "Milk powder and water are mixed fresh each time a calf nurses. But only 1 pound of milk is given at a time to prevent overfeeding."

Dr. George Haenlein, Cooperative Extension dairy specialist, was instrumental in getting the computerized nurser.

"The nurser allows calves plenty of sucking time, socialization and exact amounts of milk," Haenlein says. "It is now in its fifth year of use. It's very economical and paid for itself in 2 1/2 to 3 years."

Professors such as Haenlein use the herd extensively for research and to provide hands-on learning experiences to their students. Haenlein says he has 125 students each year who need to learn techniques of milking, feeding, artificial insemination, nursing calves and cheese making.

"Real experience is the backbone of good teaching," he says. "And hands-on experience with

(Turn to Page A37)



Dr. George Haenlein, University of Delaware Extension dairy specialist, left, and Richard Morris, dairy manager, show off a calf that is wearing a transponder for computerized identification. The calf can be recognized by a computerized nurser that will automatically dispense freshly mixed milk powder and water.



## DO IT ALL


































With more than 30 attachments available, you truly can do it all with a Bobcat machine. The rugged Bob-Tach mounting system makes changing attachments a snap. Write or call for free 32-page Buyer's Guide.

**Melroe Company**  
P.O. Box 6019  
 Fargo ND 58108 6019 • (701) 241-8700

**MELROE COMPANY**  
A BUSINESS UNIT OF MELCORP COMPANY

# Save

## \$100.00 - \$200.00



**LIMITED TIME ONLY**  
Nov. 5 - 26, 1994

Dutchwest woodstoves feature:

Solid cast iron design and construction.  
Ultra-high efficiency plus the industry's lowest smoke emissions.

Convenient side loading.  
Large glass doors for fire viewing.  
Made in the USA.

**SALE NOW THRU NOVEMBER 26, 1994**

**BOWMAN'S STOVE & PATIO INC.**

906 E. Main St. (Rt. 322) Ephrata, PA  
1 Block East of Rt. 222  
(717) 793-4973  
1-800-842-0310

Mon., Tues., Wed. 10 to 8; Thurs., Fri. 10 to 8; Sat. 10 to 4

**SEE YOUR NEAREST DEALER FOR A DEMONSTRATION**

<p><b>Tunkhannock, PA</b> BARTON SUPPLY 717-836-4011</p> <p><b>Honey Grove, PA</b> NORMAN D. CLARK &amp; SON INC. 717-734-3682</p> <p><b>West Linn, PA</b> CLARKLIFT SERVICES 610-670-2950</p> <p><b>Bethlehem, PA</b> 610-868-1481</p>	<p><b>Quarryville, PA</b> GRUMELLI'S FARM SERV. 717-786-7318</p> <p><b>Myerstown, PA</b> EVERGREEN TRACTOR CO. 717-886-2585 1-800-441-4450</p>	<p><b>Muncy, PA</b> BEST LINE LEASING, INC. 717-546-8422 800-321-2378</p> <p><b>Milvburg, PA</b> BS &amp; B REPAIR 717-966-3758</p> <p><b>Towanda, PA</b> S.P.E. INC. 717-265-4440</p>	<p><b>Chambersburg, PA</b> CLUGSTON AG &amp; TURF, INC. 717-263-4103</p> <p><b>Hannover, PA</b> FINCH SERVICES 717-632-2345</p> <p><b>Needmore, PA</b> CLUGSTON FARM EQUIPMENT 717-573-2250</p>
---	--	--	---