

Dairying Returns Full Circle To Chester Dairy Farm

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COCHRANVILLE (Chester Co.) — To some dairy families, there's an adage that sticks: life is not a ladder, it's a circle.

Charles Moore remembers when, in the '60s, milk went from being bottled by small processors for local home delivery to huge processors with delivery to giant supermarkets.

Then, things changed. Now, because consumers want more personalized services they can trust, the Cochranville dairy farmer sees the lifecycle of the public milk supply swinging back to independent producers, and maybe even the return of the glass bottle with a paper cap, delivered right to the door, in some areas of the country.

Moore held up one of those glass bottles, embossed on the face of the glass in green with the company logo, specially produced for the 75th anniversary of the place he sells his milk: Hy-Point Dairy, near Wilmington, Del.

At one time, the Moore family managed a dairy farm near Chester, Delaware County. Up until 1954, the Lemuel L. Moore family would take the cattle out to the meadows surrounding the 98-acre farm. But the U.S. Army stepped in in 1955 and negotiated a deal which transferred the family — and their entire dairy operation —



The Moore family, who operate Rol-Pen-Lyn farm (a prefix created using first names of their son and two daughters), farm a total of 180 tillable acres, including 38 at the home farm, where they raise two separate herds. Charles

Moore, right, manages registered and grade Holstein, while his daughter Penny, 28, left, maintains a mixed breed, consisting of Jerseys, Linebacks, and Holsteins. In center is Charles' wife, Anna Grace. Photo by Andy Andrews



Penny cares for her own herd, milking about 20 and taking care of 18 young stock. She also works part-time for a local implement dealer. Here she tends to Sonny, son of Magnum, born late April, a 1/2 Jersey and 1/2 Holstein.

to Cochranville in 1960.

Why were they asked to leave? "The farm was converted to a radar-guided missile sight," said Moore as he scattered wheat straw about in the stall barn.

A neighboring farm, about a mile away from the original Delaware County residence, was used for the actual rockets. The site was completed in 1956. But it was never used. Why?

The military installation "was obsolete right after they had it built," Moore said, shrugging.

What's left now is single homes, an array of condominiums, an elementary school, and fast-food restaurants.

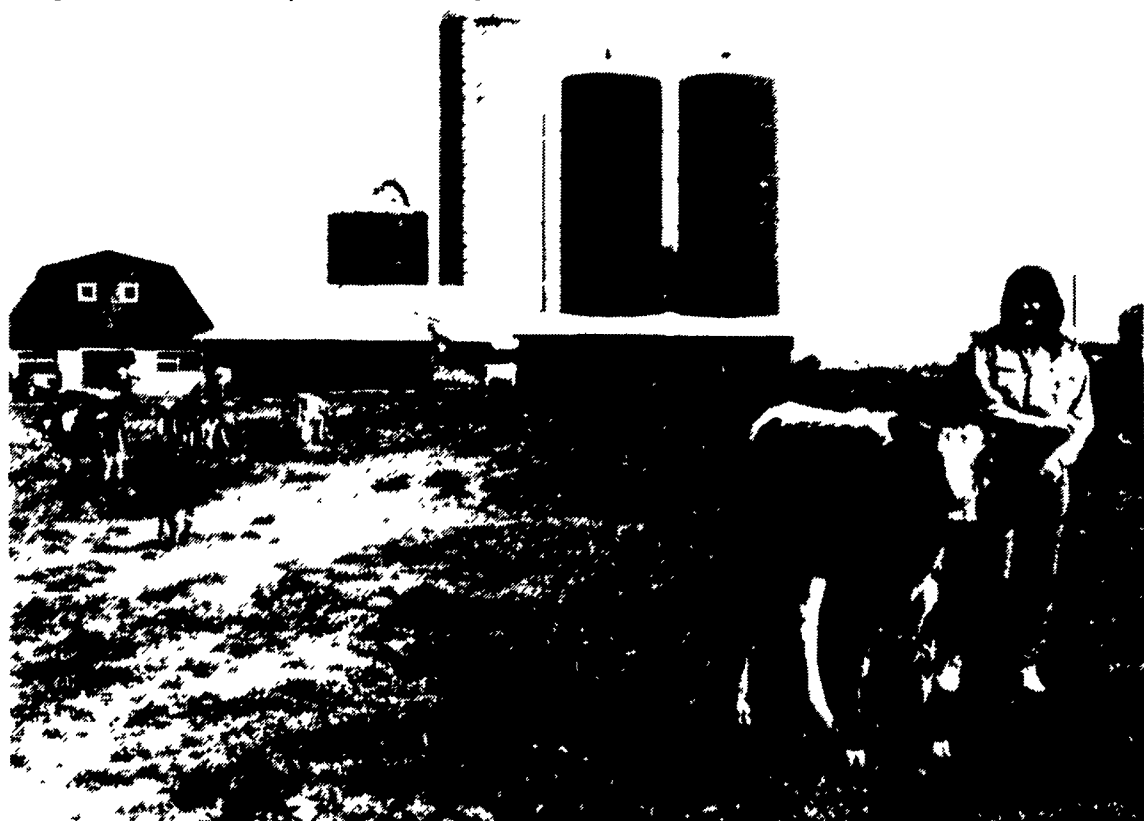
"It doesn't look anything at all like it was long ago," said Moore.

Back in the 1950s, the Moores were selling raw milk from the Chester location. In 1985, believing perhaps that life was indeed a circle, they saw a potential market, erected a farm sign, and tried to sell

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Taking time away from busy farm chores, Penny inspects her classic tractor collection. Here she looks at a Ford Golden Dealer Demo, the 901 Select-O-Speed.



"Bailey," which Penny shows here, is a 1-year-old mixed, 1/2 Holstein and 1/2 Lineback.



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