

Dairy Name Reflects A Way Of Life

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 High School.
 It was at Chestnut Ridge that he also coached football and wrestling. In 1969, the farm which

neighbors his homestead in Cambria County came up for sale. Harteis decided to buy it and "come home."
 Harteis and his wife Dena have

continued to improve on the original farm.

A major structural fire in 1977 caused \$245,000 in damage — with marginal insurance coverage. It was a challenge to rebuild from that point.

One of the newest additions which Harteis is very proud of is a modified Virginia-style barn with slotted floor and manure pit underneath. It's an unusual type of barn for this area and Harteis had to travel east to see a few of these before deciding on a definite design.

There are 140 head of cattle, his "salvage crew," in this barn, but the design style enables all of the cattle here to be adequately cared for in one man-hour per day.

The 100-head milking herd, all registered Holsteins, has been the top DHIA herd in Cambria County for a number of years. The most

recent figures show a herd average of 24,878 pounds of milk, 897 pounds butterfat, and 779 pounds protein. Some of the milk is marketed at the Friend-Lea Dairy store, (owned by Jim's brother), and the rest is sent to Sani-Dairy, in Johnstown.

Friend-Lea Farm employs only two full-time workers. Harteis and his hired help handle all the milking with the youngest two Harteis sons helping out on weekends. They are on a 3X schedule. Automatic feeding is done and each cow is programmed with a totally mixed ration. A supplemental TMR is given to the higher-producing cows every four hours.

Harteis is considered to be fairly innovative. He credits his dad, Lawrence, who passed away last September, with giving him the example of being receptive to new ideas and being open-minded.

For instance, the farm has been using shredded newspaper as bedding for the past five years. In fact, Ebensburg area residents who bring their papers to the farm now call them "moospapers."

Gravity gutters and liquid manure pits have been in place since the late 1960s. Friend-Lea Farm has been environmentally friendly before it was "chic" to be so.

In 1994, 400 acres were put into crops. The total commercial fertilizer use for the farm was only nine tons. Harteis points out that this is the result of his "judicious use of manure." All the manure is stored and then spread in the spring or fall. The results of soil tests determine which fields need the most fertilizer. These will receive the most manure.

Diversification is also another reason for the success of Friend-

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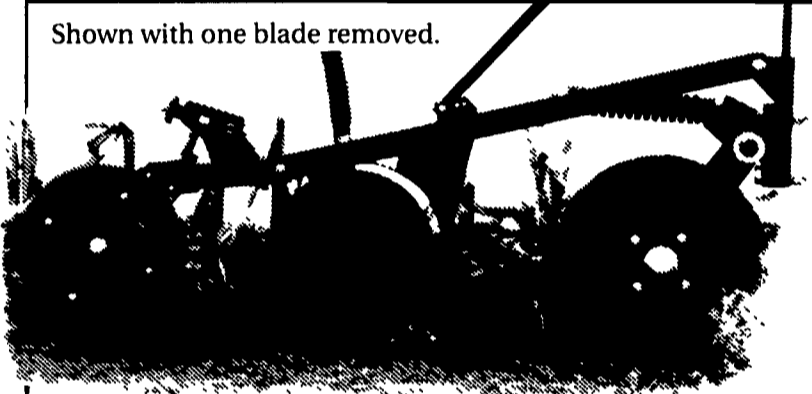


Lindsey with "Oreo," her pet dalmatian.

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