

Lineback Cattle, Lenapi Traditions Thrive In Centuries-Old Farm

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) — Some people call E. Barnard Baily's cattle Blue cows; his daughter nicknames them Dalmatians. Baily said of the ancient Lineback breed, "They just fit me. I like old things. I don't like to be like everyone else, and they are just different enough to suit me fine."

Lineback cattle are known to have existed during Biblical times. The breed, prevalent in Europe in the 1700s and 1800s, was brought to America by the English and Hollanders.

Baily purchased his first heifer calf Lineback 20 years ago.

"I was at the New Holland Sales Stable, and a friend told me I ought to buy it, so I did. When I brought him home in the truck, my dad asked, 'What kind of mongrel is that?'" Baily said with a hardy laugh at the memory.

"After she grew up, she milked just as good as the Holsteins,"

Bailey proudly reported of Grand Dam Flim Fancy that milked 20,000 pounds for several years in a row.

Baily's Linebacks look like they dipped their noses in a bucket of black paint. They have black ears, black around the eyes, a white stripe down the middle of their backs, and black speckles.

From a distance the muffled spots appear blue; hence the reason why some people call them blue cows.

Two types of Linebacks exist — Gloucester and Witrick. Baily has all Witricks, which are speckled. The Gloucester has a dark, solid-color body with a white stripe down the back and a white tail and belly.

The Baily's eldest daughter, Meredith, 14, shares her dad's enthusiasm for the breed.

"They are more docile and easier to handle," said Meredith, who also shows Jersey and Ayrshire cattle.

Another daughter Becky, 10,



In front of the farmhouse, which has been in the Baily family since the 1600s, are Jane and Barnard Baily with daughters Meredith, 14, and Becky, 10. Sitting behind Barnard is his mother Dorthea, herdsman John Stidhum is at right. With the family are three generations of Lineback cattle. The speckled breed have a white stripe across the back, solid color ears, eyes lined with black like a raccoon, and a nose that appears as if it were dipped in a bucket of black paint.

also shows cattle, but she follows more in the footsteps of her mother Jane, who is from the Lenape Indian tribe. They are both experts at Lenape beadwork and weavers.

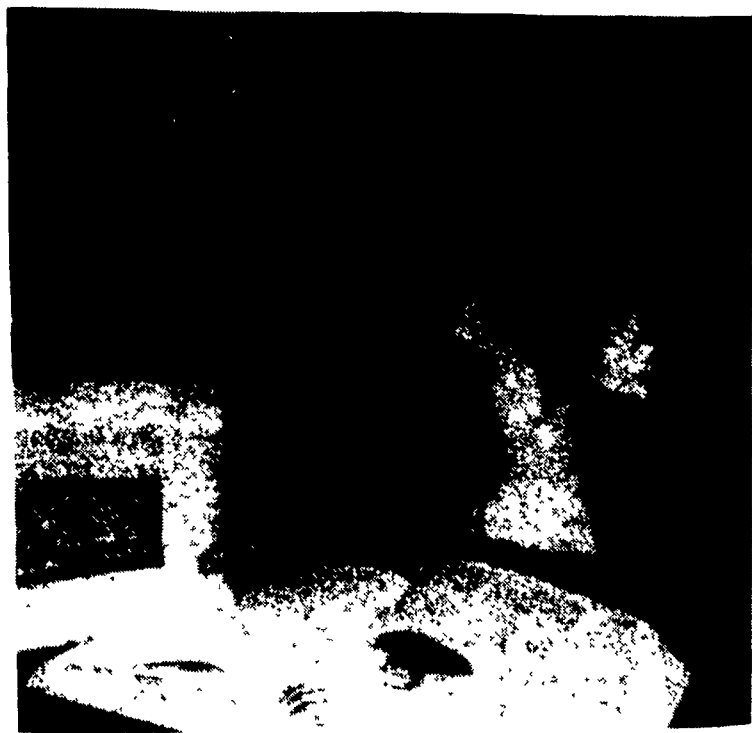
Not all of the Baily's 220-head herd are Linebacks, about two-thirds are Holsteins. But Baily intends to continue increasing the Lineback percentage.

About eight years ago, Baily heard about the America Lineback cattle registry located in Shawano, Wis. Before then, Baily was using Holsteins for breeding because he

(Turn to Page B3)



In addition to showing Linebacks, the Baily sisters show Ayrshires, Freckles and Finale, which took first place at the Schuylkill County 4-H District Show. Notice the stone building in the background believed to be built in the 1600s.



Barnard's mother Dorthea Baily, 83 years old, holds a copy of the picture that appears in the "History of Chester County," published in 1881. The drawing of the Baily farm appears almost identical to the farm today. A rail fence lines the quarter mile lane leading to the house and barns, which dates have not been determined.



Dorthea Baily lives in the farmhouse surrounded by family heirlooms passed down through the centuries. Her son, his wife, and children admire the quilt patches representing 50 states that she is completing.

HOMESTEAD NOTES