

Bowmans Quick Farming Success



Rick and Chris Bowman with some of their Holsteins are proud of their recent DHIA award.

LINDA WILLIAMS

Bedford Co. Correspondent
LOYSBURG (Bedford Co.) — Bedford County recipients of the 1997 DHIA awards were presented at a recent banquet held at the NBC School.

Winning the Herd Management and Most Production Progress awards were R&J Farms owned by Rick and Chris Bowman of New Enterprise.

The brothers run a 82-dairy head of registered Holsteins. Renting the barn, they buy all of their feed. "This was a good year to do that," Rick says, who began farming six years ago and was joined by brother Chris following his discharge from the Army. Rick and Chris became partners in February.

"It's been a lot of hard work," says Chris, "But, we're proud of our record."

This year, production was 20,428 and last year 14,272. Other records which earned them the "most improved," award were: Fat, 725, up from 540. Protein, 647 up from 465.

Sematic call increase averaged 300.

Rick does all of the breeding, carefully selecting the sires. "We look for bulls with outstanding records and 300 to 500 daughters," he explains. The brothers both admit to being good with vet work.

"We are also careful about how we feed," Chris adds. "We feel that when and how is as important as what!"

They add water to make sure there is plenty of moisture. If the feed is dry, it separates from the forage. They also feed stale bread mixed with the other rations."

Milk is shipped to Sani-Dairy.

In addition to the 82 head of milk cows, the Bowman brothers have 60 head of young cattle.

They recently purchased a concrete planer which is used to do free stall grooving. "It's a side line business," says Chris who adds anyone can call (814) 766-3952 if they would like more information.

Chris is married and he and his wife, Ginger, live near the farm.

Both brother wish to thank their dad, James, for helping them get started in farming.

Other awards presented at the 1997 DHIA banquet held at Loysburg were as follows:

High Herd Milk: Steve & Jeri Ritchey, Martinsburg, 24,099 lbs. milk.

High Herd Protein: AK Mohr, New Enterprise, 785 Protein, Average/Cow.

High Cow Milk: Steve & Jeri Ritchey, Martinsburg, 37,689 lbs. milk, cow #468.

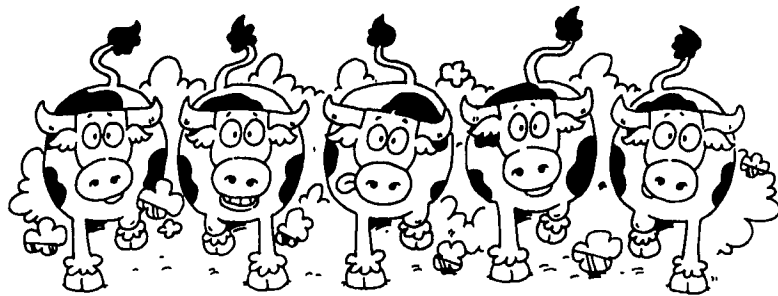
High Cow Protein, AK Mohr, 1054 lbs. milk "Betsy" 3.3.

Lowest Somatic Cell Count: Larry & Frank Burkholder, New Enterprise, 150,000 SCC monthly average.

Ribbons-Herds, 750-849 pounds of protein.

AK Mohr, 785 lbs. protein; Steve & Jeri Ritchey, 774 lbs. protein; Paul & David Helsel, Woodbury, 752 lbs. protein.

New DHIA directors elected were: Rick Smith and Scott Mohr.



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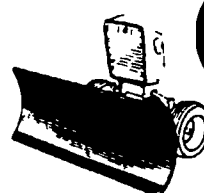
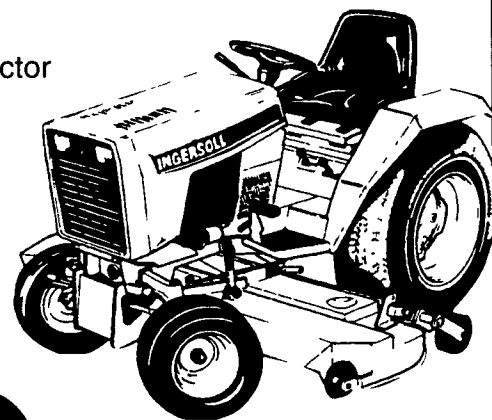
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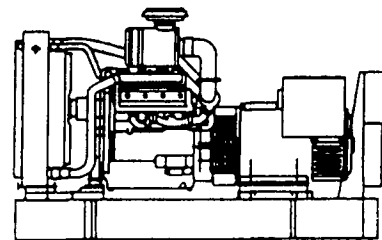
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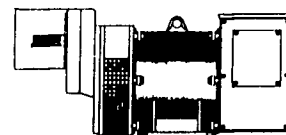
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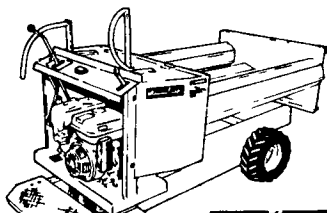


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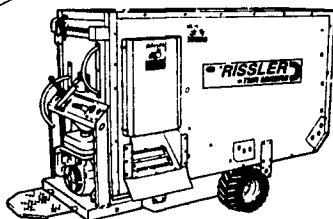
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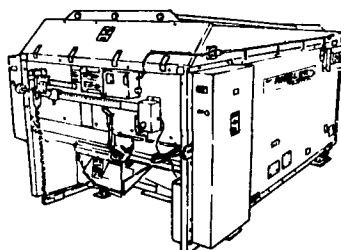


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