

Hines Named Frederick Farm Family

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involved in the farm. Son Jim and his wife Cindy and their children Jimmy and Heather, Steven and his wife Vickie, and daughter Stacey all work on the farm as needed. Another daughter, Lydia Myers, lives nearby, and children Adam and Michael can often be found helping with the chores when visiting.

George and Fern grew up living on opposite ends of the same road. "George used to fill my dad's silo," Fern recalls, "and our fathers were great friends." The couple started out farming near Libertytown when they first married. They purchased their present farm near the Carroll and Frederick County border 22 years ago, and after bulldozing everything but the house, cow barn, and one old barn, have been making improvements on it ever since.

The farm consists of 127 acres,

with another 650 rented and double cropped. They milk approximately 60 cows, have a custom farming business that amounts to about 1,000 acres, and have also recently started a dealership selling farm equipment. "We call ourselves diversified farmers because we do it all" laughed Fern. They are shifting the focus of the operation to more toward the custom and grain farming, and to George's equipment dealership.

The custom farming business started out with George filling neighbors' silos. Gradually it has grown each year; last year George custom farmed around 1,000 acres. "It has grown by leaps and bounds up until this year," said Fern. The drought slowed business this year. "George owns a combine and can do everything in the field for anyone," she said, "from plowing, seeding, combining, mowing, and making hay." A year ago the Hines bought out a

small dealership that sells parts, feeders, wagons, and seed corn, and they are trying to grow that business.

They have milked up to 130 cows, but have been culling cows all year long. Fern says the decision to reduce the milking string down to its present 60 head is a function of both poor milk prices and the dry year. "I really think the milk prices and the dairy situation is more stressful than the drought," she said, "We've always gambled with mother nature. But when you can't see where it's going to get any better, it's frustrating," she explained.

The milking herd at Hidden Acres is a hodgepodge of breeds. They started out milking Holsteins, and they still account for the largest percentage of the herd, with about half registered and half grade. "Then Steven brought the Jerseys to the farm," said Fern, "and then Stacey brought the



The Hines family was recently recognized by Frederick County as Farm Family of the Year. From left to right: George, Vickie, Fern, Adam, Heather, Jim, and Cindy. In front are Jimmy and Mike. Missing from the picture are Steven, Stacey, and Lydia.



George with some of the Hidden Acres helpers. They are housed in pens in groups of 8-10 up until breeding age, then run with a bull.

Shorthorns." There are also Brown Swiss and various cross-bred cows in the milking string. They are not on test. The Hines have their breeding program down to a science. Almost all the Jerseys are registered, and they are bred AI. The Hines use a Milking Shorthorn bull for that first calf heifers, even the Holsteins. They also run two Holstein bulls with the cows, except for the Shorthorn cows, who get a shot of Lutelase and are bred AI. They also raise about 30 steers.

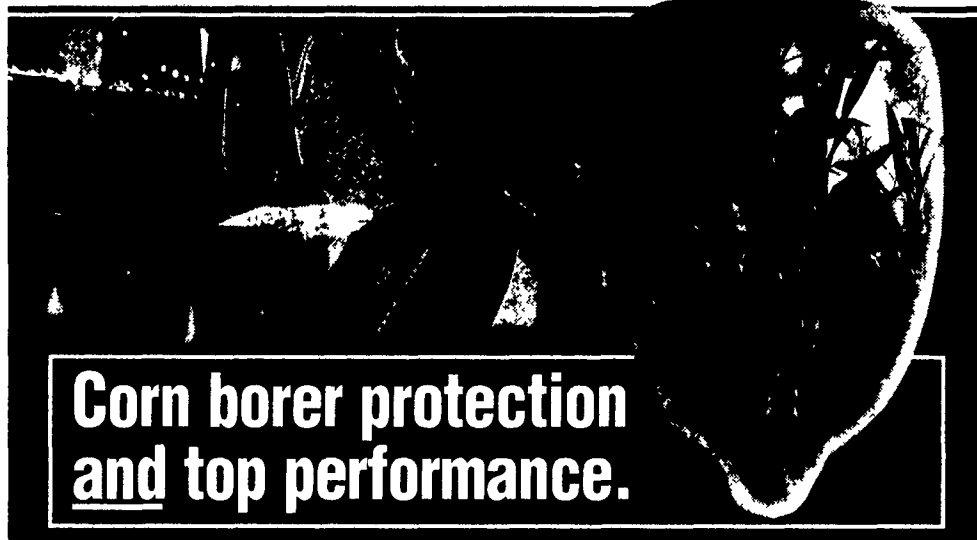
Out of this vast assortment of dairy cattle some outstanding animals have risen to the top, both in putting milk in the tank and gathering honors on the local and national show circuit. One went to Madison recently, and will go on to Louisville in November. All the Jerseys did very well this year, taking first and second place rib-

bons at the shows. At the Frederick County fair a Jersey shown by Jimmy was junior champion in the open and 4-H shows, where Adam showed the senior and grand champion. Adam also had the best bred and owned cow at the Montgomery County, Frederick County, and state fairs. At state fair Heather had junior, senior, and grand champion with a Milking Shorthorn in the 4-H show. She showed the senior and grand champion Milking Shorthorn at the Frederick County fair.

A lot of the credit for establishing a successful Milking Shorthorn presence in Maryland goes to Fern. Her interest in Milking Shorthorns prompted her to start a junior Milking Shorthorn club in Maryland. "At one time when Stacey showed her first Milking Shorthorn they told me that would

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