



Three generations with the WD 45. Jeffrey Fritz restored this Allis Chalmers WD 45 while he was in high school. The 45 horsepower tractor was purchased new in 1956 by his great-grandfather, Carroll Fritz, who was George's father and Daniel's grandfather. George Fritz is seated on the tractor, Daniel is on the left, and Jeffrey is on the right.

Fritz Farm Home To Three Generations

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Maryland Correspondent
NEW WINDSOR, Md. — Any farm in central Maryland that can stay in business and prosper through the entire 20th century has got something going for it.

In the case of the Fritz dairy farm, that something is the Fritz family.

Located just outside New Windsor, three generations of the Fritz family now work on the farm that is home to a milking string of 67 registered Holsteins.

George Fritz and his son Daniel were born on the farm that was purchased in 1912 by Charles Fritz, Daniel's great-grandfather. Now George and Daniel, along with Daniel's wife, Sharon, work the farm. Daniel and Sharon's son

and daughter, Jeffrey and Jessica, are also employed there, making them the fifth generation of the Fritz family on the farm.

This August, Daniel and Sharon will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. Although she was not raised on a farm, Sharon Fritz says she is a "convert" to dairy farming. She was a school teacher, and Daniel was driving a school bus when they met.

George and Daniel milk the cows. Daniel does most of the breeding. Jeffrey, a 1995 graduate of FSK High School, is responsible for most of the fieldwork, and since his sister Jessica went away to college, takes care of the calves, too. He also helps milk and breeds some cows. He is engaged to marry Stacy Peterson in May 1999.

Jessica is a sophomore at the University of Maryland working on an animal science degree. She is a member of Alpha Zeta, the ag honors society. She is Carroll County farm queen and a past county dairy princess. She also served as alternate Maryland state dairy princess.

Jessica is especially well-known for her outstanding performance in dairy judging. She was a member of the Maryland 4-H dairy judging team that won the national contest at Madison, Wisconsin in 1995 and went on to Europe. That year at Madison she set a record that still stands for the highest score ever in individual reasons.

In addition to her work at home, Sharon Fritz is active in the Carroll County Farm Bureau. She is past chair of the women's committee and is secretary-treasurer. She was active in the publication of the women's committee cookbook, a book that has been distri-

buted throughout the states and even in Russia.

In 1980 Daniel and Sharon added 60 acres to the property, bringing it to a total of 150 acres. Over the years the Fritz family has steadily made improvements on the farm. They milk in a flat parlor. They have added three Harvestore silos — two 20X80s and a 20X60. Renovations have been made to the barn, and they have built a heifer shed and installed a Slurrystore. Last summer they constructed a shop building.

The Fritz family is committed to registered Holsteins. In fact, George himself has a lifetime membership in the National Holstein Association, although he said he hasn't been very active in the Association for the past several years. He said his father, Carroll Fritz, had cows registered in the old Harrisburg Association in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

The family's success with their cows is evident in both the milk tank and the show ring. They have a herd average of 20,826 pounds of milk, and ship their milk to Land-of-Lakes Cooperative. George owns about five heifers and calves. Jeffrey has 10 milk

cows and 13 heifers. He recently registered the Misty-Bottom prefix with the Holstein Association for his herd. Jessica has five milk cows and eight heifers.

Jeffrey has had a great deal of success with a calf he purchased in 1988 at the Carroll County calf sale. He considers "MSV Bear Milky Way" a foundation cow in the Fritz farm herd. Purchased as a four-month-old heifer, Milky Way was eventually named supreme champion at the Carroll County Fair and was reserve junior All-Maryland in 1993 as an aged cow. She is a DOM (Dam of Merit) with the Holstein Association and has more than 20 descendants on the farm, most of them owned by Jeffrey.

Fritz Farm Workman Lass, born in 1986, is a 12-year-old homebred cow finishing up her 10th lactation. She has almost 234,000 pounds lifetime milk and will freshen in July. She is classified Very Good 85 and has one daughter in the milking string.

Both Daniel and Jeffrey are active members of the New Windsor Volunteer Fire Company. The family are members of Linganore United Methodist Church.

Daniel with Fritz Farm Workman Lass, a 12-year-old homebred cow finishing up her 12th lactation. Lass has almost 234,000 pounds of lifetime milk and will freshen in July. She is classified Very Good 85.

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