

KIEFFER FARMS INC.

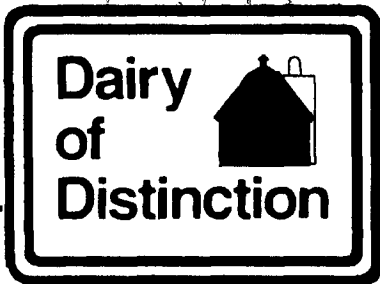


Kieffer Farms Inc. is a partnership between a father and two sons. The operation has two farmhouses, and 200 owned acres, and another 100 rented acres. The operation is located along Stauser Road, south of Lenhartsville. The father is Robert Kieffer, and he and wife Gladys live in the seven-bedroom 1883 farmhouse that serves as partnership headquarters. Son Ken, 44, and his wife Rosemary live off the farm, and son Richard, 45, lives in another farmhouse. A couple hundred yard macadamized farm lane is edged with white vinyl fencing. A farm sign is at the mouth. Pasture stretches from the road front back to the farm buildings, and a stone wall with flowers is at the main farmhouse. Robert does a lot of landscaping and maintenance. They have a large yard. The 65-head, mostly grade Holstein herd averages more than 20,000 pounds milk, and are kept in an older bank barn with 62 tie-stalls. There is an attached pole building with bunk feeder on one side and loose housing on the other. The dry

cows use the loose housing during the winter and spend the summer on pasture. On the farm where Richard lives, there is a pole barn with side vents like a tobacco barn that is used for heifers. As many do, they keep about the same number of replacement animals as milking. All the buildings are painted white. There are two stave silos — an 18-by-60 silo for haylage, and a 20-by-60 for corn silage. They feed the cows a mixture of corn silage and haylage, and feed grain in the barn. They depend on some grazing for the cows, but don't use intensive grazing per se, instead treating the fresh forage as a supplement. A stream courses through the pasture. "To be a good farmer means dedication, a lot of hard work and time," Robert said. Being accepted into the Dairy of Distinction program means "... pride in having a nice-looking place." While they're yet to feel the pressure, there's residential development about a mile away.

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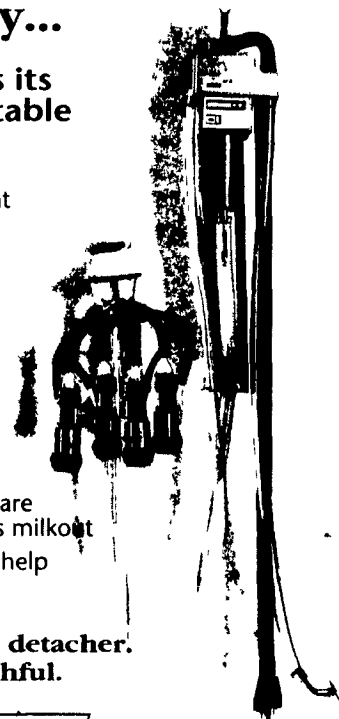
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