

PURINA DAIRY HERD PROFILE

1000 LB INCREASE

At Zim-Lea Holstein Farm located west of Schaefferstown in Lebanon County, John and Laurene Zimmerman like to farm and they like high-producing cows. This is evident in the well kept farmstead you see as you drive in the lane.

The Zimmermans have 80 Holstein cows that have a rolling herd average of more than 25,000 pounds of milk. Individual cows milk up to 150 pound per day with 15 or more cows producing more than 100 pounds of milk at any given time. Individual records go up to 33,000m. They milk 2x in a conventional tiestall barn with no BST. In their feeding program they top-dress with Purina's 24 Super EXT and use a 40 percent concentrate to custom-balance their TMR mix of haylage, silage, beans, and high moisture corn.

The Zimmermans like how the cows are producing under Purina's feeding program. "Before we switched to Purina feeds, I knew there was more milk to get out of our herd, but we didn't seem to be able to get it," John said. "I like dealing with a close-by mill and we have been buying small things from K&K Feeds in Richland. So it was natural to give them all our feed business."

The Zimmermans have been feeding Purina feeds for eight years.

"After we began feeding Purina we saw a 1,000-pound increase in the bulk tank within



Here's why they like Purina feeds at Zim-Lea Holstein farm. From left, Mae: 1-10y 308d 20,803m 705f 654p; Prissy: 4y 291d 25,141m 1,157f 848p and Holly; 1-10y 328d 25,687m 1,106f 860p.

several weeks," John said. "They recommended a high use of home-grown roughage so we buy only the short feed we need. The Purina representatives like Duane Nolt and Ken Reeder are such nice people to work with too. We depend on them to formulate our feeding rations and help us with herd health."

A large number of cows in the herd are 2-year-olds. Many of these young heifers freshen at 1-10y to 1-11y. One of these heifers just finished

her first record of 1-10y 328d 25,687m 1,106f 860p. Herd health is good. The calving interval average is 12.6 and they have minimal calving problems.

"Purina feeds and feeding programs help keep costs down because they stress a high forage diet," John said. "Now we buy Purina feeds for all our dairy animals from calves to dry cows in the milking herd - even down to our dog's chow. That's why we can recommend Purina to other dairy farmers."



Duane Nolt, K&K Feed, Inc., Richland, provides the feed formulas for the Zim-Lea Holstein herd.



The Zim-Lea Holstein farm is owned by John and Laurene Zimmerman, Schaefferstown.

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