On Dairy Tour

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tall mats. They were to be installed by the end of April.

A recently constructed calf greenhouse provides good ventilation and "really helps knock down bacteria and viruses that can hit calves," said Kulick.

The calves are moved to the open structure, with a crushed limestone floor, from when they are born to about four months.

At the time of the tour, 30 calves were housed in the greenhouse, including some bull calves. There is room for 44 in all.

One bull included Luke, out of Blackstar. The bull will be moved to an AI commercial program.

To replace the greenhouse plastic, it cost about $500, Kulick told the tour group. The total cost of the structure was $8,500, which includes 1A crushed limestone. The building measures 32 by 100 feet.

A new milk room was under construction near the entrance.

The calves, weaned at three months, are fed a commercial calf feed. Each calf gets a metal eartag with the herd ID number.

The barn has a 400,000 gallon capacity underground manure storage. The floor is slatted. Kulick explained to the tour group how the manure is agitated, brought to consistency, pumped, and placed in manure spreaders, where it is applied to the fields.

There are 78 freestalls, with cement floor, and 72 cows on each side, in two groups. "If a cow wants to lie down, I would make sure I have a spot to lay her," said Kulick.

The farm already has been host to preschool and elementary school students. Also, middle school students were brought in under the special interest class program at the local schools.

The farm employs Mark Matula, full-time, and a couple part time, including Jared Brickner and J.P. Rebert. Also, Leo Raudabaugh helps on the farm, which includes the home farm near Carlisle and three other farms in the area.

Jim's wife, Ann, milks and his daughter Amy is in charge of calf feeding and helps relief milk.

Three years ago, Kulick decided to quit his home construction work and enter into dairy farming full-time. He said he enjoys working the cows and doesn't really care for fieldwork. Brother-in-law Ron does all the fieldwork.

In August 2000, the farm with be the site of the county's 250th anniversary, and will feature farm tours to accommodate about 700 people, Kulick noted.

The Penn State-sponsored teacher seminars allow teachers to see how agriculture works, taking them to "start at the product and see the process involved to the finished product," said Sallie M. Gregory, extension educator and 4-H youth development at Cumberland County extension.

The program is modeled on the highly successful teacher seminars conducted throughout the school year by the Berks County extension office. Berks County seminars are coordinated by Clyde Myers, extension agent.

Nancy Bauman, Upper Allen Elementary School third grade teacher in Mechanicsburg, said to Kulick at Stover Farms, "This is your career. This is another occupation that other kids can be exposed to."

Gregory noted that the past couple of generations of children have been removed from the working farm experience. Many of them, said Bauman, are from the suburbs, and aren't exposed to rural experiences.

"They don't know anything about cows," she said.

The tour group also toured the Land O'Lakes processing facility in Mount Holly Springs. There, James R. Barnett, member relations manager for Land O'Lakes Dairy Foods, and Bonnie Highlands, membership coordinator, conducted a tour and answered questions.

The tour group also toured the Land O'Lakes processing facility in Mount Holly Springs. There, James R. Barnett, member relations manager for Land O'Lakes Dairy Foods, standing, second from right, and Bonnie Highlands, membership coordinator, standing, third from left, conducted a tour and answered questions. Seated are, from left, Becky Davis and Nancy Bauman, teachers. Standing from left are Mandy Lehman, Cumberland County 4-H extension agent; Sallie Gregory, Cumberland County extension agent; Highlands; Barnett; and Thomas R. McCarty, extension agent, water quality.

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