

Lynncrest Farm To Receive National Holstein Young Breeder Award

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According to Kirby, Happy has become a diamond. "We have been told by several embryo marketing firms that Happy's sire lineup of Winken x Bell & Boss x Converse is probably the only one like it in the world.

Now, her Bellwood daughter has taken over as the most heavily contracted cow in the herd.

Representing an eighth generation Very Good or Excellent, she is

a fifth generation bull mother. She carried more than \$100,000 in embryo and bull contracts as a 2-year-old.

The Haley cow family is noted for their high milk components, and this past year she also became the first 40,000-pound lactation cow at Lynncrest.

Kirby said that while they have diversity in breeding goals, such as continuing their work with red & white Holsteins, breeding for type,

as well as index, they are perhaps most satisfied with their Haley-Happy-Halfpint lineage.

The Horsts married and began farming in 1981 with Kirby's 25 Holsteins and Sheryl's two. They purchased 11 from Kirby's father during a dispersal, and rented the farm.

Since then they have added tunnel ventilation, a high moisture corn silo, a TMR mixer, calf barn, lane improvements, fencing, signs,

etc.

They said they believe that the first impression is the lasting impression and they want every visitor to their facility to get a good impression — that these are people who care for their animals and understand quality production, be it Holsteins or milk.

"Milk quality is very important to us," Kirby said. "We ship our milk to Wengert's Dairy, which is the highest rated dairy in the state

of Pennsylvania for milk quality.

"They pay a 30-cent premium for quality milk, so it is imperative for us to pay attention to all the little details," he said.

They pre- and post-dip, use individual towels, keep tie stalls cleaned, sweep the tiled manager and feed TMR twice per day, use kiln-dried wood shavings on the beds, clip flank and udder hair, periodically brush cows and wash tails, and change the milking machine inflations (the rubber-type liners of the vacuum milkers) every 60 days, and test for somatic cell count (SCC).

Their SCC has been running between 150,000 to 180,000. Their goal is to average below 130,000.

They vaccinate a full program under supervision, have an embryo-transfer veterinarian on the farm three- to four-times per month, trim feet regularly (several times per year), and use consultants and specialists when needed.

While they have made some fortunate purchases and have marketed well, as well as bred their own cattle well, they also have developed a rule-of-thumb for using flushing on the farm.

The consider the cost of flushing and don't do it unless they know they have a contract to fill.

"We make it a rule on our farm never to flush an animal unless they have a bull or embryo contract," Kirby said.

"We have produced over 550 fertilized embryos over the past five years and have never broken that rule. It's a good rule to keep us financially sound."

The Horsts also consider themselves fortunate to be located in a strong dairy and Holstein area.

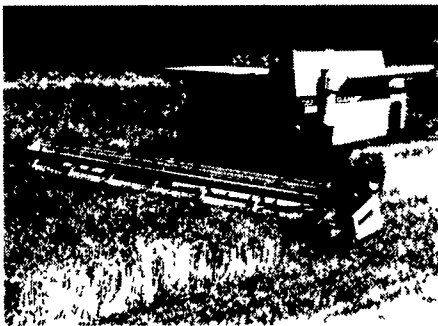
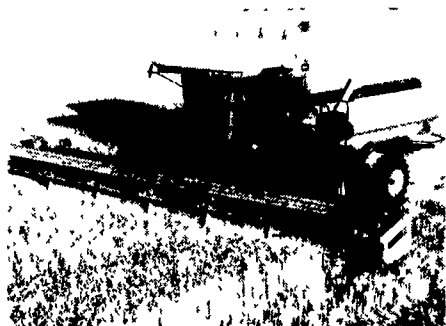
As with certain other areas in the state, region and nation, in addition to having rich fertile limestone soils, with normally dependable rainfall and soil moisture, that stretch of the southern Lebanon Valley that lies between Newmanstown and Schaefferstown has had a long history of well-respected dairy cattle breeders and producers.

The valley dairy community is very strong and close-knit.

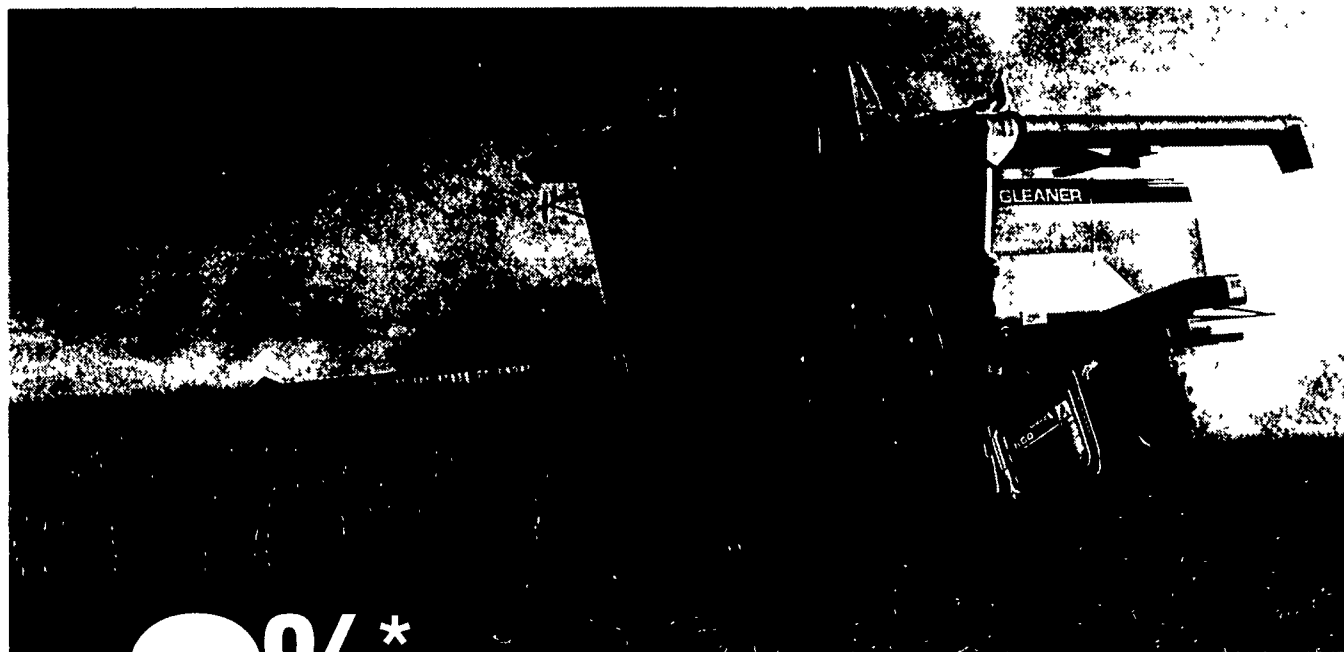
People depend upon each other for friendship, entertainment, and business relationships.

For the Horsts, they have close friends in the dairying business who have different approaches to farming and different interests, and that doesn't matter.

Ultimately, Kirby said, "The great thing about the dairy industry is that there are many different niches."



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