

Sattazahn Family

(Continued from Page B2)

even when it is dry." A crop-saving characteristic many years, and especially needed during this year's drought.

Ray's first tractor was a 1937 Allis Chalmers. Today he is delighted that his son Clarence and wife Marlene have had the tractor restored and enter it in local tractor shows.

The transition from horses and mules to tractors was a welcomed one.

"When it was hot, we no longer needed to take out the horses," said Ray, who has a picture of him using Belgian horses and mules.

In 1956, Ray remembers purchasing his first combine.

Although his wife Elsie died 24 years ago, Ray refers to her often.

"Look around here," Ray said of the 140-acre farm, now owned by son Dennis and his family. "My wife deserves the credit for everything you see. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't have gotten this. She husked fieldcorn by hand and was right up there with the best of them."

Because he is in good health at 90 years, people often ask him about his diet.

He said that he ate a dozen eggs on Easter. "But I can't eat cheese," he said. "Know why?" I don't like it," he explained.

But don't worry, this dairy farmer said of consuming his own

product, "What I don't eat in cheese, I make up in ice cream."

He also claims to be a heavy drinker. "Of water," he clarifies.

He uses honey, not sugar.

"I drink some liquor but don't overdo it," he said.

While most people rely on clocks for telling time, Ray said, "I can tell the time by where the sun is positioned at the locust tree."

In addition to his son Dennis, his other children include his oldest son Ray Jr. and wife Betty, retired farmers; son Clarence and Marlene, who farm two adjoining farms; Mary, who is retired and lives in Virginia, and son Robert and Jane, who farm in Womelsdorf.

Marlene and Clarence live in a house built in 1854. The German bank barn is made of stones with vent holes. The former Amish residence had no electricity, when they moved in so they milked with a tractor generator until electricity was installed.

The couple started out with 24 cows tied in a staunchion barn, using a dumping station and bulk tank.

In 1973, the couple was the first in the township to install a carousel milking parlor on wheels. They also erected adjoining barns and three silos.

Son Kevin and his family live on an adjoining farm, and Kevin works as the herdsman for his



Four generations of the Sattazahn family gather around the 1937 Allis Chalmers, the first tractor that 90-year-old Ray used for farming. With him are son Clarence, granddaughter Karen, and great-granddaughter Ashley Mohn.

father and makes breeding decisions. Their youngest son Kirk is Pennsylvania's Young Dairy Leader, the Penn State Young Dairy Leader, and a Sire Power

area representative.

Marlene and Clarence were named 1981 Berks County Outstanding Farm Family.

The family is active in Marion

Grange. Clarence is a voting delegate for Sire Power. His hobby is collecting "big and little tractors" and farm toys.

(Turn to Page B5)

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