

PURINA'S SUPER EXT. IMPROVED PRODUCTION HERD

Pennsylvania DHIA's Improved Production Herd Is Fed Purina's Super EXT

For Smith Oak Farm, a century farm located north of Reynoldsville in Jefferson County, the increase in milk production over the last year has been so dramatic, they have won an award for it.

Brothers Paul and Harry Smith and Paul's son Bill Smith represent the 4th and 5th generation dairymen on the farm, and they received a 1999 Pennsylvania DHIA award for herds with most increase in production. And no wonder. In November of 1998, when the Smiths switched back to Purina's Super EXT program their rolling herd average was 17,944m 709f 592p. On the latest test (December 1999), 13 months later, their 63 registered Holstein cows were producing an average of 22,111m 790f 703p. That's more than 4,000 pound of milk per cow.

"Before we switched back to Purina the cows were just not eating the grain," Bill said. "We had left Purina for about a year to try to get a cheap feed. But when the milk price was high last winter, we decided to try to produce as much milk as possible. That's when we came back to Purina and started to buy performance rather than price."

Today, several cows have milked 150 lbs., and they keep high production month after month. For example Wink made a 305 day record of 30,125m 1,136f 923p and is now fresh again milking 150 lbs. Jazz at 8y11m made 31,491m 1,286f 923p and is back as a 10-year-old cow milking 134 lbs.

Not only do the cows eat better," Paul said. "they keep good body condition scores even when milking 130 lbs. The cows keep



At Smith Oak Farm, a dramatic increase in production has come since the herd was placed back on Purina's Super EXT program. In the photo from left, Rob Hinton, Purina district manager, with Paul, Bill, and Harry Smith, farm owners.

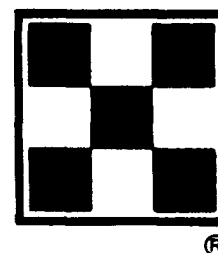
milking more than 100 lbs. for six months or longer. We keep a 13.4 calving interval, which we consider really good. In addition, cows get ready to work on Purina's Prepare dry cow program and they don't seem to slow down over freshening like they did.

The herd is fed TMR with a custom blend Super EXT 34 to meet individual production needs up to 65 lbs. Higher producers are fed a top dress of EXT 24 according to needs.

Smith Oak is also known for their show herd that has done well in regional and national shows. Locally, last year, the farm received both the premier breeder and premier exhibitor banners at the Jefferson County Holstein show.

The Smiths compliment Farm and Ranch Supply in Warriors Mark, and Rob Hinton, district manager for the personal attention they give the herd, and for the timely deliveries of feed to the farm.

"We have found the Purina feeding programs to be more profitable," Bill said. That's the main reason why we believe the future is bright here at our farm."



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