

Good Attitude

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quality of your life."

They also feel that having bigger farms in the area won't push the smaller farmers out of business.

"The 60-cow dairy can make it as long as the family can accept the work load, the time, and all that. That's a pretty nice operation, but it's a full-time operation," said Roy.

Having bigger farms in the area is also good for farm infrastructure.

"There has been enough expansion (in the area) to keep the dealer and vendor outlook brighter," said Tim.

For Roy, the decision to stay in dairying is simple, but when it comes to making the jump to a bigger operation he admits being a little nervous.

"The older you get, the scarier it gets," said Roy. "You feel sort of secure with what you have, and Tim's not 25, so it's scary. Our numbers have outgrown our operation. It's a 20-year-old barn, and that's old by today's standards. We don't have the ventilation and the cows don't have the com-

fort."

Tim echoes Roy's sentiments, "You're either going to be in, or you're going to be almost out and working off the farm. That's the way I feel about it. As you get regulated more with manure and waste, you better start thinking a little differently about how to handle it."

Another of the major concerns with expanding is the amount of forage that will be necessary to keep the herd milking. Although the cropland is available, the distance from the fields to the barn would be great.

"We'll need to move forage so far and then you have to move the manure back out, which is even a bigger problem sometimes than getting the forage in," said Roy. "We don't know, but we're looking at our options."

Over the past few years, the Beardslees' forage program has evolved from an alfalfa-timothy mixture to one based largely on orchardgrass with alfalfa.

"Basically the orchardgrass

will stand a lot better and take a more aggressive cut, said Tim.

Timing of the hay cutting is also important. For the past several years, Jerry Spencer has been custom harvesting their crops. When the Beardslees aren't milking cows and doing general farm work, they are active in several areas of the community. Barbara is a licensed practical nurse and is working on becoming a registered nurse. She plans to return to work when she completes her studies.

Roy sits on the Citizens and Northern Bank, East Smithfield Branch, advisory board, and is a former member of the Ag Choice Farm Credit Board.

Tim and Cathy have two children, Marc, age 13 and Miranda, age 10. Both children and both like to spend time on the farm.

The bottom line for the Beardslees, whether they undergo the expansion project or not, is to keep an open mind and a good attitude.

"If you don't look, you don't know what's out there," said Tim.



Tim Beardslee joined the partnership with his father in 1978. Since then, he's helped make management decisions and is working with his father and consultants to plan the dairy's expansion.

Lancaster Chamber Celebrates At Oregon Dairy

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Thousands of attendees are expected to have a mooving experience at The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Oregon Dairy's Family Dairy Days. This FREE event will be held Tuesday, June 13 through Thursday, June 15 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Oregon Dairy.

Last year more than 8,000 attendees turned out to enjoy a variety of dairy- and agriculture-related activities in celebration of June as National Dairy Month.

Plans for this year's Family Dairy Days will include a wagon

ride tour of the Oregon Dairy farm, live chick hatching, agricultural exhibits and ice cream and milk samples. Kids will enjoy the straw tunnel, face painting and a coloring contest — each child who enters will receive a free ice cream sundae. Chicken barbecue dinners will be available for \$2.50.

Oregon Dairy is located on Route 272, north of downtown Lancaster. For more information about Family Dairy Days or National Dairy Month, please contact Brent Landis at 397-3531, ext. 62.

From Sows To More Cows

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roasted corn, soybean meal, water, and a mineral pack. The citrus peels were added for energy. The DeLongs are look-

ing into a variety of energy sources.

All cows are tagged and recorded by computers. One of the major challenges, Jim noted, was learning the computer system, which consisted of "months of struggle," he said.

The farm can manage up to 500 cows.

Building the numbers slowly is key, Jim noted. Through improvements in culling and breeding, obtaining quality bulls through an intensified AI program, will be key, according to both Jim and Ken.

Ken noted that having the children and full-time help with milking allows them to put more work in the fields. The DeLongs farm more than 400 acres, including about 300 in corn, 100 in hay, and 70 in pasture. The heifers are grazed on a simple pasture system.

Though the partnership began in the early 1970s, "we've worked together all our lives," Jim said.

The DeLongs offer the children competitive wages.

Now, with labor shared equally, the kids — and the adults — are "enjoying themselves," Ken said.

"We have so much to be thankful for," said Ken. "Our parents taught us many things, and one of the most important was how to communicate and work well together."

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