



Deal Holsteins will host Somerset County Day at the Farm, from noon to 4 p.m., Sunday, June 25. From left: Scott Rohrbaugh, Rochelle Gossman, Zachary Rohrbaugh, Brad Koval, Jen Rohrbaugh, Justin Rohrbaugh, and Darryl Rohrbaugh, manager with Pongo the dog.

Deal Holsteins To Host Somerset County Day At The Farm

GAY BROWNLEE
Somerset Co. Correspondent
SOMERSET (Somerset Co.) — Deal Holsteins, owned by Allen Rohrbaugh and his wife, Joyce Rohrbaugh, from noon to 4 p.m., Sunday June 25, will host Somerset County Day at the Farm.

Farm manager Darryl Rohrbaugh, Allen's younger brother, his wife Denise Rohrbaugh, and their sons Justin, 12, and Zachary, 2, are helping with the preparations and getting the landscape spruced up for the affair.

Somerset County Farm Bureau is coordinating the annual event, city dwellers, especially, are invited, not only for an on-the-spot tutorial about the origins of the food they eat, but to sample some food too.

Farm tours, hay rides, petting zoo, and commodities produced in Somerset County by the dairy, beef, sheep, poultry, maple and potato industries will be highlighted.

Also featured are a milk drinking contest, hay bale toss and numerous exhibits, including farm safety, food safety, animal care, veterinary care, alternative uses of corn, crop protectants, animal nutrition and soil and water conservation exhibits.

"Day at the Farm is definitely good for the business," commented Joyce, "but I am hoping more city people show up." She added: "A lot of times farm people show up, too, because they know you."

The 209-acre property is in two townships, split by the Piedmont Road. It goes between Allen's ranch house on one side and the original farmhouse where Darryl's family lives on the opposite side.

Allen lives in Milford, and Darryl in Somerset Township, but everybody's mail is from the same post office.

Deal Holsteins' total stock is at 270 animals. The milking herd, a registered and identified grade combination, is 120 to 130 head in size. Maryland-Virginia Milk

Producers buys the milk.

As far as diet, the cows get haylage, high moisture corn, protein mix and dry hay. Some pasture is reserved for animal exercise.

The haylage and high moisture corn facilities are three blue silos towering above the free-stall barn and Double-8 Herring Bone milking parlor, situated to the rear of Allen's tidy lawn and above-ground pool.

The owner said the operation's animal refuse facility, built before he took it over, should be larger. It has approximately four months storage capacity, which is minimally sufficient.

The farm pond is pretty instantly, catches one's eye with its prominent dry hydrant the previous owner installed for fire protection.

Heifers are lodged in the original barn behind the other farm house.

Allen tells the history behind the Deal Holsteins prefix. When he and his first wife, Debbie (deceased), and their children — Jill, now 18, and Scott, 10, — moved to Somerset County from York County in 1992, they thought hard about a business name. Landmarks didn't appeal, so finally, they settled for the first two letters from each first name of the couple.

Although Allen owned machinery and a dairy herd in York County, they had rented a farm from Charles Birch for 12 years. Shopping for a place to call their own took both time and patience.

Many sites in Pennsylvania and New York states were available, but as Allen, reflectively says: "You are looking for the best buy for your money."

Then he learned about a farm the Jonas Scheffel family wanted to sell in Somerset County. It was on Piedmont Road.

"I learned about it through Lancaster Farming," he said. "Actually, we looked at 35 different farms before we decided to settle here."

Allen says farming was in his blood. He and Darryl had grown up on a farm managed by George Rohrbaugh, their dad, who now resides in Fayette County. The men's mother Audrey Rohrbaugh, in 1992, died just before the three household family moved here, Allen said.

Not surprisingly, choosing to move generated upheaval until everyone got settled. During the interim, while Allen was overseeing construction of the new milking parlor, plus adding new stalls in the existing free-stall barn, the others were tying up the remaining loose ends in York County.

"Allen was building the milking parlor and the rest of the family stayed behind to vaccinate the herd," chimed in Denise Rohrbaugh. She is also secretary of the Somerset County Farm Bureau.

About 22 tractor-trailer loads of machinery and six tractor-trailer loads of cattle were involved in the relocation, not to mention moving the families themselves and household goods.

Prior to the Scheffels, Woody Sanner owned the place, however, an old deed with the signature of D.B. Zimmerman indicates the famed coal and cattle baron, also owned the property.

People still are awed by the life and wealth of D.B. Zimmerman, a Somerset farm boy who left home at age 14 and went on to make a fortune in the west with cattle and in the east with coal.

The late millionaire's private mansion in Somerset, more recently, was restored as the landmark Inn at Georgian Place. Very elegant and gracious, it is a bed and breakfast inn that sits

prominately amongst an array of outlet shops.

According to records, D.B. Zimmerman died in 1928 at age 65.

Prior to her marriage to Allen in 1995, Joyce had also been widowed when her spouse died. So now, the blended family of five includes her daughter, Rochelle Gossman, who is 7, and a dog, Pongo, who seems to favor lounging in the decorative flower bed under the farm sign.

Joyce says she keeps the roadways hot running errands all the time and sometimes wonders what the neighbors think when she drives by so often.

In addition to homemaking, Joyce manages to keep the books and farm accounts up-to-date, do

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Denise Rohrbaugh, Darryl's wife, keeps up the grounds around the old farmhouse