

Play It Again, Zita

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are direct descendants of Zita. She was also has records to 39,620 pounds of milk.

Seeing Double

Unfortunately Zita broke a vertebra, was paralyzed, and passed away Friday, March 2, before the calves arrived at the farm. Approaching ten years old, she was still in good health. The Wiles family is enjoying watching for similarities between Zita and the calves.

"Zita was dominant and it will be interesting to see what will happen when they get older," said Wiles. "They probably both won't pick on each other but take on the rest of them."

Since markings are 90 percent determined by heredity and 10 percent by the recipient carrier, the calves do not look exactly alike, or exactly like Zita. A chemical washes over the fetus while it is in the womb, which may change the look of the calf. Both calves exhibit Zita's characteristic long legs, tall, framey build, and head more wide at the top.

The calves are showing the same voracious appetite of Zita, 2,300 pounds as a 9-year-old. "They're always nibbling. We already had to put long-stemmed orchard grass in, which we don't usually do until the calves are three months of

age."

Wiles plans to keep approximately three Zitas in the herd. "The kids can see Zita as a calf, how she grew up," he said.

A Family Operation

The family has been in the dairy business since 1964, when Charles and Martha began to farm. Their son Greg came back from the University of Maryland in 1986 to take over the breeding program.

Greg and his wife, Becky, have three children: Ryan, 14, Eric, 10, and Rachel, 5. Becky helps with the milking along with Greg's sister, Melissa, who also holds a job off of the farm.

Charles is in charge of repairs and crops while Greg takes care of cow management and feeding. The farm encompasses 200 acres owned by the Wiles family and an additional 100 acres rented for pasture. They milk 110 cows.

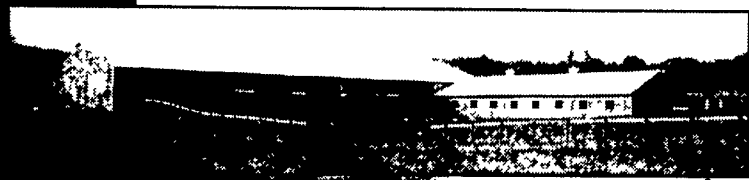
Greg Wiles was recently awarded the national Junior Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Young Farmer Award. He traveled to Nebraska a week after the calves arrived with his son to receive the award. Wiles was selected because of the farm's soil and water conservation practices and his own progress in agriculture and for contributions to his community, state, and nation.



The Wiles exhibited information about Zita at the annual Maryland State Holstein Convention banquet. From left, Ryan Wiles; Greg Wiles; Ron Gillespie, vice president, marketing, Cyagra; and Charles Wiles.

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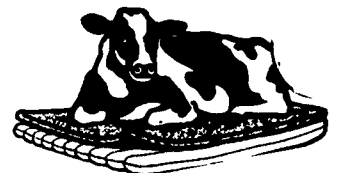
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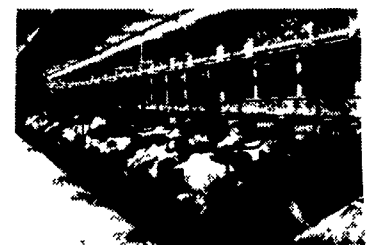
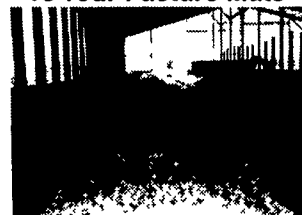


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