

Clean Cows

(Continued from Page 12)

"There are no magic bullets" when it comes to making clean milk, Jeff said. Cow and udder cleanliness is the most obvious practice.

"Keep those udders and teats clean," he said. Thorough handwashing, and pre- and post-milking dips are the main parts of that program.

With a background in nutrition, Jeff keeps a close eye on the TMR and on the cow's eating habits. A recent count of the milking string showed that all but five percent of the herd were chewing their cud at that time, he said.

At the time of this interview, none of the cows had had a displaced abomasum for more than a year.

The cows are let outside to eat at the bunkfeeder every morning and, in the summertime, graze during the night.

The Hostetters installed a new manure concrete liquid manure storage tank two years ago. The system holds more than a half year's worth of slurry, allowing some room for herd expansion.

The Hostetters grow about 100 acres of corn and 60 acres of alfalfa for the TMR they mix on the farm.

The rolling herd average at the end of 2001 was 23,700 pounds of milk, 858 pounds of fat, and 691 of protein.

(Turn to Page 16)



Jeff Hostetter, left, discusses breeding options with Sire Power technician Rick Krall.

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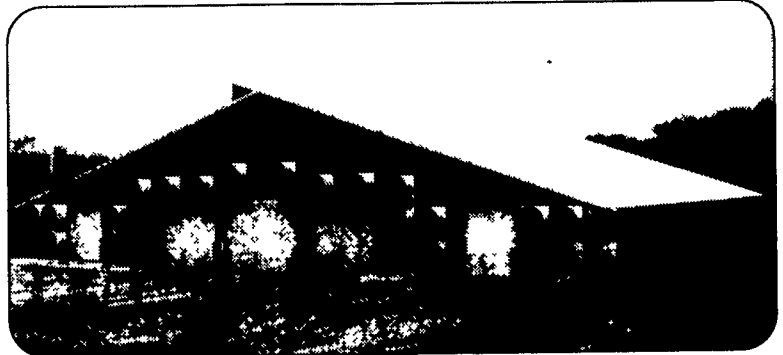
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