

Warburtons Adapt

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graze. A lot of people do it, but it didn't work for us the first year."

The next year they got the cows out by April 15 and added water tanks. Every year since, they have made more improvements to fine-tune their operation. Polywire separates paddocks, and the cows are on fresh grass every 12 hours. Jim mows the pastures as needed and usually fertilizes with urea early in the spring, mid-summer and in the fall. Some of the pastures have been frost-seeded with clover.

"It's been a learning process," he said. "The longer we're grazing, we see the sod getting more dense and thicker. This is working well for us."

In the switch to grazing, the Warburtons also retired their corn planter and made changes in the cow's diets.

"He hasn't planted corn for three years," said Barbara. "The cows get no corn silage."

The only equipment parked in the shed is a manure spreader and haymaking equipment, including a new

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Two years ago, the Jim and Barbara Warburton converted their stall barn into a milking parlor for a fraction of the cost of what many people spend on renovating.



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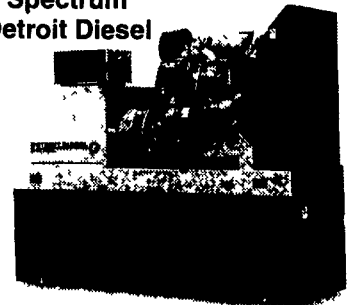


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