

Warburtons Adapt

(Continued from Page 10)

round baler purchased this summer, a diskbine and a bale wrapper.

"It's working," said Jim. "In these northern counties, we can grow grass if we can't grow anything else. We can pretty well feed the cows on pasture for six months."

Baleage and grass hay make up the bulk of the ration during the other six months. Throughout the year, the cows also receive a commercial grain ration, which is carefully balanced to complement the grass the cows are eating.

In the switch to grazing, herd health has improved dramatically and the culling rate has decreased.

"Our vet expense is way down, and our cull rate is way down. We don't cull much for production. We're not very concerned about making records," said Jim.

Added Barbara, "We've been able to sell a lot of replacements, because we don't need them. We're trying to increase the Jerseys, so we've sold a lot of Holsteins as bred heifers or yearlings." "We just sold a dozen to Minnesota," said Jim.

Of the 115 cows, 70 are Jerseys and the rest are Holsteins or cross-bred.

"We bought about 15 Jerseys quite a few years ago from Bill Eick. We started to switch then because if



Calves are raised in a greenhouse barn and receive lots of tender loving care from Barbara.

anyone watched what was going on, they knew that we would be soon be getting paid for the protein," said Jim.

"That was when Jerseys were cheap," said Barbara. "The highest we paid was \$650 and we had mainly first calf heifers and a couple of older cows.

"The kids had always shown Jerseys too."

The Warburtons are making the switch to Jerseys and cross bred cows because of their willingness to graze. They also love the heartiness of the crossbred

(Turn to Page 14)

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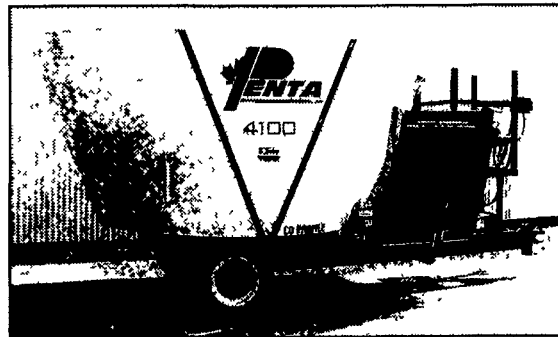
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