

Warburtons Adapt

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animals.

The herd is milked in a double-six herringbone parlor that was retrofitted into the original milking barn two years ago. The Warburtons did much of the work themselves. Before building the parlor, they milked in 26 stalls with 13 units, switching cows. At that time they were milking between 130 and 140 cows.

"It cost us around \$45,000 to do it. We can milk about 100 cows in less than two hours," said Jim. "You don't have to spend a fortune on a parlor." Herd averages for the Holsteins run around 16,000 pounds of milk, while the Jerseys produce between 12,000 and 13,000 pounds.

"We calved a lot of heifers in the past few years and quite often, especially with the Holsteins, we sell the best and milk the rest," said Jim.

Calves are raised in a greenhouse barn and in hutches and receive special attention from Barbara.

Grazing for the Warburtons has been, in many ways, the answer to their prayers. Although they have a hired hand to help with the milking, the Warburtons do the bulk of the work themselves. Their three children and spouses, Bruce and Sandy, Amy and Nick, and Brian and Eileen, work off the farm, but sons

Bruce and Brian help when they can. Jim's father is also around the farm daily.

Besides running the farm, Jim and Barbara also find lots of time to be involved in other activities. Jim is a newly elected director of Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) for Bradford and Sullivan Counties. In his spare time, Jim attends pasture walks and tells everyone who will listen about "Project Grass," an educational program that promotes pasturing.

Barb works three days a week at a local Dairy Queen, has been a 4-H leader for 18 years and is on the state women's committee for Farm Bureau.

If anyone asked them for advice on farming, their first response is to not spend a lot of money.

"There are so many people who are just barely hanging on and trying to survive farming. I think they could benefit from grazing if they went at it. It's been really good to us," he said. "If I had done it 10 or 20 years ago, I could think about retiring now," said Jim.

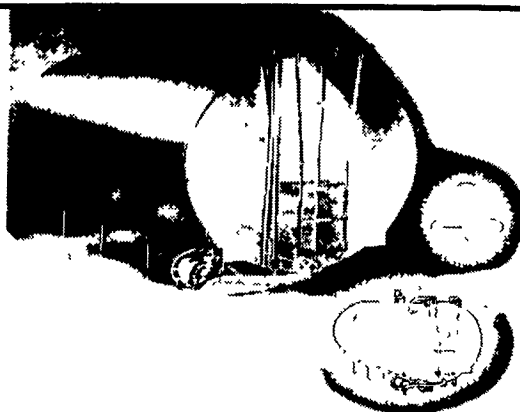


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