

SOMERSET DAIRIES BOOST PRODUCTION AND HERD HEALTH WITH PURINA EXT RATIONS

Dairy producers in Somerset County who have switched to a Purina EXT feeding programs are reporting higher production, healthier feet, fewer fresh cow problems, and improved reproductive performance. Andy Krug, Purina representative for the area, said he visits his customers every two weeks to provide top-notch service. According to dairyman Ernie Hoffman, "Andy is always available if we have questions." That's the kind of quality and service Purina customers can depend on.



Ernie Hoffman left with sons Brand and Eric

Maryland natives Ron and Elaine Gribble moved to Somerset in 1999 and have been feeding Purina for about a year and a half.

With the help of hired man Matt Paxton, the Gribbles milk about 200 Holsteins on Ron El Farm. They recorded test averages of 66 pounds per cow for the past year, without using BST.

Feed rations consist of corn silage, western hay, and Purina EXT Complete. With a cull rate of only 18 percent, the Gribbles like the effect Purina has had on their cows' to last. Since going with Purina, "Hoof health and fresh cow health have improved," Ron said.

Hoffman Dairy, Somerset, has been in the family since 1916. Ernie Hoffman, along with sons Brad and Eric milk 150 Holsteins with a rolling herd average of over 23,000 pounds milking twice a day - compared to 18,000 pounds five years ago when they first switched to Purina.

"Bottom-bin sampling at the plant assures we get a consistent product, load after load," Brad said. Along with the jump in production, the Hoffmans are pleased with the herd's total performance on EXT Complete rations and homegrown forages.

"Overall body condition, score, reproduction and herd health has improved since switching to Purina," said Eric.



Ron & Elaine L to R with Matt Paxton



L to R, Dwight Speigle, Rueben Hunsberger, son; Bill and Nick Hunsberger

Bill Hunsberger moved from Bucks County in 1977 to this Davidsville farm - the longtime home of Johnstown founder Joseph Johns and his descendants.

Bill, second from right, now milks about 140 Holsteins with the help of herdsman Dwight Speigle, left, and sons Reuben and Nick. In February of 2001, the Hunsbergers switched to Purina and are happy with the results.

"We were told by the competition that hoof health would be a problem. Instead, the opposite happened and hoof health has improved," Bill said.

Rolling herd average is 23,350 pounds on Purina EXT rations, milking twice a day. The Hunsbergers are particularly pleased with the performance of fresh cows on Purina's pre-fresh concentrate.

"The pre-fresh program is working great," Bill said. "Cows get off to a good start. I don't know the last time I had a case of milk fever or ketosis."

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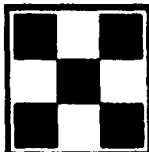
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