

# Lebanon Tiestall Operations

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said. "She loves cows."

The rest of the milking chores are divided so that no person milks more than twice a day, and hired workers get every other weekend off.

According to Dan Gard, local BST supplier, at least one producer in the area is even milking six times a day.

The tour group also visited the farms of Karl and Daniel Brandt, Vincent and Juliet Wagner, and Bruce and Bev Bollinger.

The Bollingers have a unique situation in that their herd of some 70 Holsteins is housed in a tiestall barn and milked in a double-6 parlor. The setup was built in 1981 when Bruce Bollinger and his brother planned a herd expansion. But the brother later "changed his career plans," Bruce said.

The herd is notable for a high conception rate, with most of the heifers calving at 2 years of age or less.

The main goal of his breeding program, Bruce said, is to produce "cows that last."

All replacements are raised on the farm, and the herd has been closed for a number of years.

The Bollingers have supple-

mented the milk check by selling a number of bulls for stud service, as well as females to other farms.

Last year, the Bollingers sold 25 Holsteins for dairy purposes. Two cows in the herd are contracted to stud providers — one for a Convincer calf, another for an Emerson. The contracted calves will be born naturally.

The Bollingers maintain an involuntary cull rate of between 16 and 18 percent, with a herd average of 24,228 pounds of milk, 877 of fat, and 749 of protein — without using BST.

After trying the hormone several years ago, Bollinger said he has since opted to focus on cow longevity, preferring the financial benefits of selling young stock over the extra milk production.

Bruce's parents, Robert and Edith, originally bought the 135-acre dairy farm in 1971. Robert still helps with the fieldwork in growing corn silage, hay, and protein sources for the milking herd and replacements on a total of 260 acres, including rented land.

Now Bruce and Bev's children are also beginning to help on the dairy. They are Becky, 10; Bradley, 8; Brenda, 6; and Bethany, 4. "We're a unit," Bruce said.



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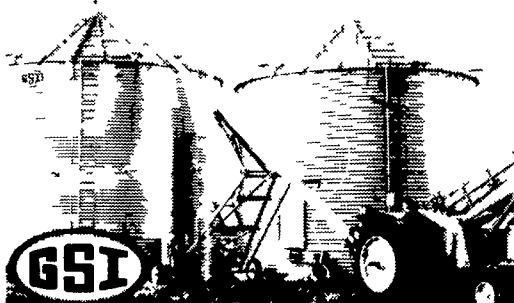
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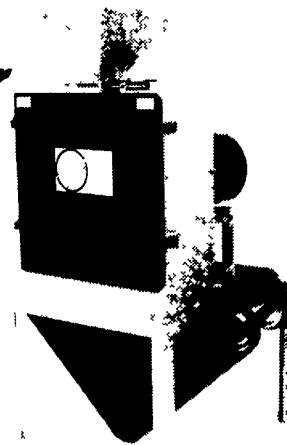
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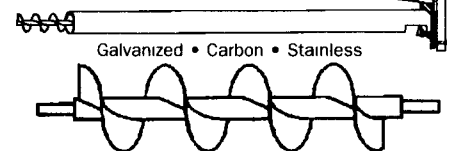
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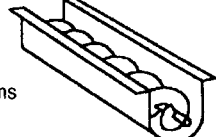
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