

Klines Host Bradford-Tioga Farm- City Day

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a neighboring 172-acre farm with a 50-cow tie-stall barn.

An employee was hired to manage that facility. The partnership between Ron and his two sons was formed in 1990. When a 300-acre neighboring property became available in 1996, the partners jumped at the chance to expand their land base to prepare for a herd expansion.

On November 25, 1997 they started milking in a double 12-parallel parlor. They have continued improvements, adding a manure storage pit, additional feed storage, and converting the stall barn into a hospital and dry cow facility.

In completing the expansion,

the Kline family set specific goals, both for the farm and personal, that they strive to reach. One is that they want to milk approximately 350 cows, shipping 26,000 to 30,000 pounds of milk each day. Others involve animal health focusing on a low somatic cell counts and bacteria levels. They also list developing a positive working environment and lifestyle goals for the family, while allowing for future generations to be involved in the enterprise.

Besides the milking herd, the farm also is home to 325 head of young stock, which are all started in a greenhouse barn before being moved to a heifer facility.

Each partner oversees a portion of the enterprise. Ron is the senior partner and general manager. Glenn is the herdsman and Gary is the crop and equipment

manager and personnel manager. They now have four full-time employees and eight part-time employees.

During Farm-City Day, participants had the opportunity to watch the Klines milk in the parlor and could see the various animal housing facilities, manure storage area, and feed areas. They also watched as a self-propelled chopper devoured a field of hay.

Other activities were also available. A neighbor took visitors on a horse-pulled wagon around the farm, there were sheep shearing demonstrations, butter making, a petting zoo, and a pedal tractor pull for the children.

Officials from various farm enterprises were on hand to answer questions, and the dairy princess booth was a popular site.

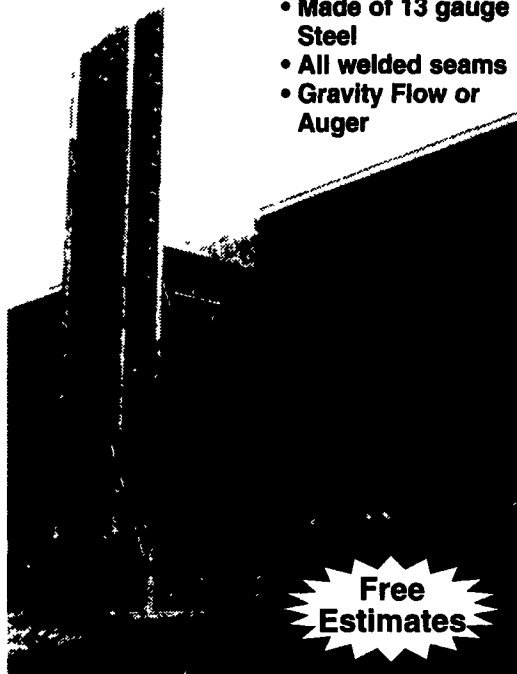
Food vendors set up shop in the equipment shed, offering chicken barbecue hot dogs and other tasty treats.



Children had the opportunity to meet calves, goats, kittens and bunnies up close that he annual event. Here Tivon Liguori, 16 months, of Waverly sits on Wendy Liguori's lap while Monica Kneller shows one of her rabbits.

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Tioga County Alternate Dairy Princess Kaitlynn Johnson, left, and Tioga County Dairy Princess Renee Norman help children make butter at the recent Bradford-Tioga Dairy Day.

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