

Dairy Princess Spotlights Fallons' Farm

LENOX (Susquehanna Co.) — Dairy Princess Shana Mack writes, "I've chosen to spotlight a farm that has made great come-back — the Fallon farm."

To keep cows healthy, dairy farmers build and maintain animal housing and milking facilities that provide for the safety, comfort and hygiene for their herd.

In March 2002 this farmer had to face any farmer's worst fear. The barn was on fire. The family was all heading in different directions that day and had it been a few minutes later no one would have been home.

Luckily they hadn't left yet! They lost their barn but were able to save their herd of dairy cattle.

This farm owned and operated by Paul and Pauline Fallon is located in Lenox, Susquehanna County. They have owned the farm since 1984 and prior to this it was owned by Paul's parents. Both Paul and Pauline were raised on farms.

After the fire they decided to rebuild and expand their herd. They now have a double 12 parallel milking parlor with automatic take-off milkers and a large freestall barn with the milking cows housed in three groups. The high group producing more than 65 pounds; a second group under 65 pounds; and a third group of unbred cows. The Fallons have tip tank waterers and floor scrapers and feed TMR.

has a computerized ID leg bracelet which is read as they exit the parlor. This ID bracelet then operates a sort gate to sort the cows into their proper group.

Fallons are now milking 206 cows. They also have a calf barn with individual calf pens housing 100 calves, a heifer barn with 70 bred heifers and a dry cow barn. The herd is mainly Holsteins but they do have a few mixed breed calves. The Fallons have 500 acres of land and raise corn and alfalfa.

Working on the farm with Paul and Pauline are their five daughters, Larissa, Sondra, Kristina, Victoria, Sabrina and hired help, Ron Jennings, Wayne Halstead Jr. and Jake Tompkins. They are looking for full- and part-time milkers.

The unique thing about this farm is how it is computerized. Fallons believe this helps them keep better herd records. They said their new operation results in the cows being more relaxed and less manual labor. The Fallons are planning an open house this fall.



Susquehanna Dairy Princess Shana Mack and Dairy Ambassador Alyssa Sprout pictured with the Fallon family in the milking parlor.



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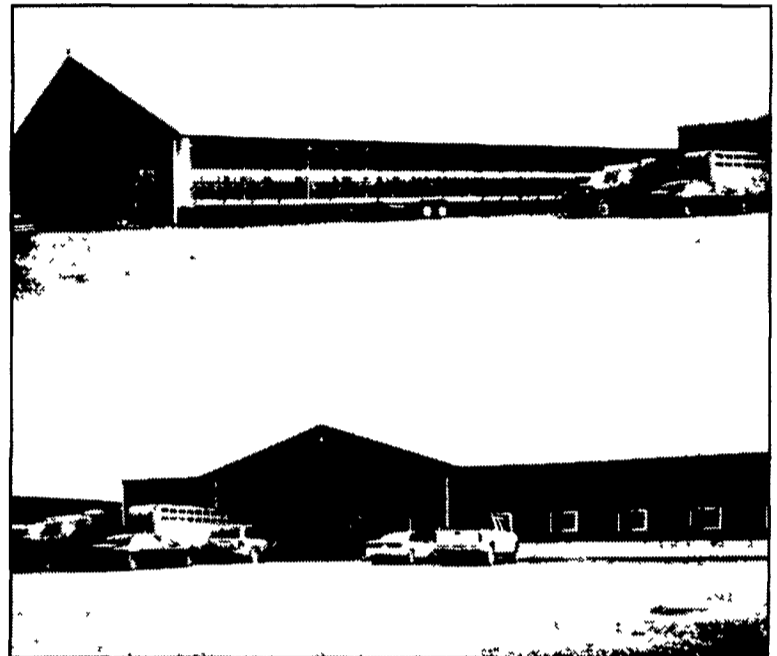
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Dairy farmers use modern tools such as computers to keep records on each individual animal and to monitor cows for health problems, nutrition and general well being. Fallon's new operation is computerized. Each cow

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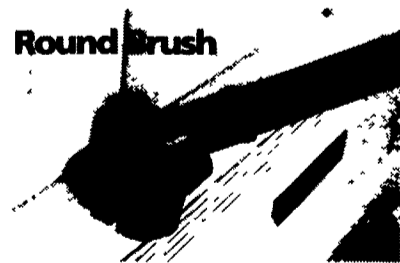
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