

Silver Shade Lee Cadillac placed first in the junior division at the Eastern National Holstein Show in Harrisburg this fall.

Breeding For Excellence Keeps Beshores In Dairy Business

DAVE LEFEVER Lancaster Farming Staff

NEW CUMBERLAND (York Co.) — Jed and Sue Beshore have worked with cows their whole life. Their breeding philosophy still keeps adapting to the demands of dairy farming.

Jed Beshore is the third generation of his family on the farm in northern York County, just across the Susquehanna River south of Harrisburg.

Sue grew up in Berks County, the daughter of longtime dairy enthusiast and show judge, Ray Seidel.

Since Jed was a boy, the landscape of the surrounding area and the business of dairy farming have changed in big ways. Being surrounded by housing developments and facing a long stretch of low milk prices could make dairying seem like a losing battle to the Beshores, who milk about 50 registered Holsteins in a tiestall barn and grow forages on 120 acres.

It is the ongoing challenge of producing a better cow that keeps them interested. And it appears the Beshores have passed that fascination on to their children Angie, 20, and K.C., 13, who have both enjoyed considerable success in the show ring.

"As far as dairy farming goes, this breeding aspect is by far why we still do it," Jed Beshore said.

In the last decade, the Beshores have found themselves growing more interested in cows that stand (Turn to Page 31)