

Beshores (Continued from Page 30)

the test of time. In earlier years, they were more inclined to breed for the "extremes" that might produce a top sire.

"As a farmer, I'm no longer interested in those extremes," Beshore said. "I want a complete animal."

Beshore has come to put longevity and type at the top of his priority list when it comes to choosing sires. He looks for bulls that are at least two points on the plus side for type, especially those that make good udders, feet and legs.

He also wants bulls that improve somatic cell counts.

To help make mating decisions, Beshore prefers talking to people who see many cows in their travels. Type considerations come first.

Breeding to produce A.I. sires with top production figures, as he was doing in the 1980s, can mean sacrificing soundness and type, according to Beshore.

"Back in that time, we were trying to breed for the A.I. market and went too far on the (production) numbers game, and type fell off," he said.

The Beshore's rolling herd average stands at 21,000 pounds of milk, down about 2,500 pounds

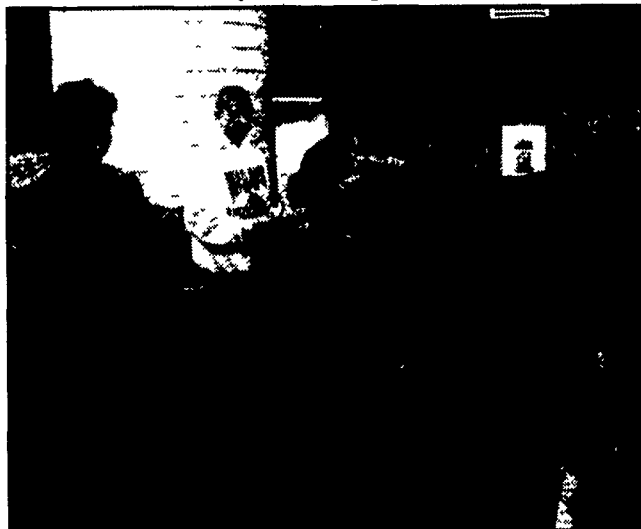
from where it was two years ago, mainly because of the recent difficulties in harvesting good-quality forages, Jed said.

The Beshores do not feed total mixed rations or use bST to boost production.

About half of the Beshore's herd traces back to Beshore Rotate Bupp-Lynn Jody, a 2E-91 brood cow who lived from the mid-1980s to the mid 1990s.

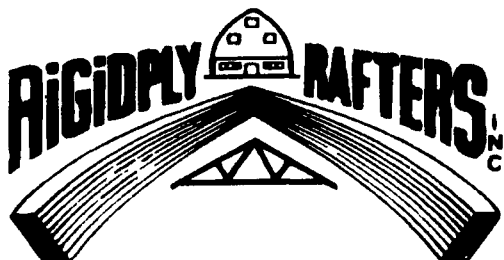
Originally developed by Andy Stoltzfus of Caer-

(Turn to Page 38)



K.C., center, Jed, and Sue Beshore prep Cadillac for a photo opportunity.

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