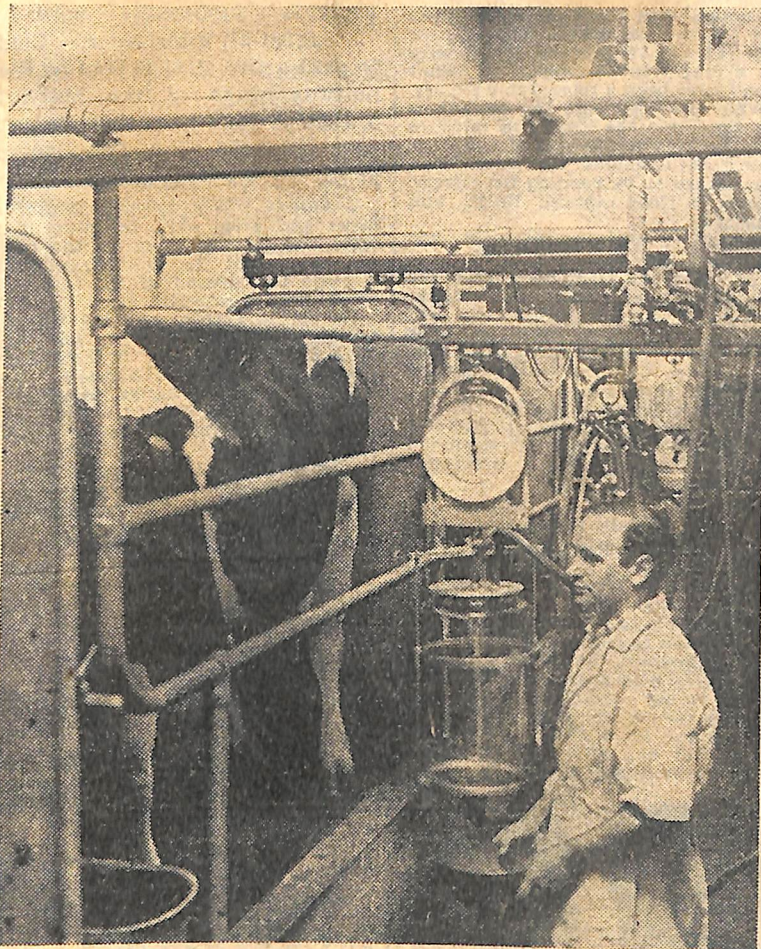




REK 1978

LICENSEE OWNS PEDIGREE HERD



Mr. H. Dieter Hundsdoerfer in the milking parlour.

CALVES SOLD—AND BOUGHT BACK

By RICHARD JOY, *May 5-1962*

Yorkshire Post Agricultural Correspondent

MOST of the inns around Skipton, the chief market town of Craven, had at one time a farm attached to them. A pub and some land formed a pleasant way of earning a living in those more spacious days, but the two occupations now, generally, go their separate ways.

The Craven Heifer inn on the Grassington road just outside of Skipton once boasted about 160 acres of land. This was eventually whittled down to 62 through various fields being separately let, and the land is now being admirably farmed by a young couple from Germany, Mr. and Mrs. Dieter Hundsdoerfer.

This farm is also one of the few with the local urban council as its landlord. Mr. Hundsdoerfer and his attractive wife, Annemarie, have built a first rate pedigree and grading herd of British Friesians there during the last three years.

'FLYING HERD'

Technically, it can be called a flying herd, though with a difference. Mr. Hundsdoerfer has an arrangement under which he sells all his best heifer calves to a fellow countryman farmer, Mr. Fred Muller, at Hanthwaite near Airedale, about 10 miles away.

Mr. Muller, who has a larger farm, keeps them to the newly-calven heifer stage when Mr. Hundsdoerfer buys them back again. In this way he can utilise all his land for adult stock, yet all his animals are really of his own breeding and the arrangement works well.

Mr. Hundsdoerfer was 18 when he became a prisoner of war in 1941. Though he had no previous practical

experience of the land he was eventually billeted to a farm in Essex.

There he worked for more than four years for Mr. Percy Quilter, owner of the Hattershill Friesian herd, near Romford. Later he became herdsman for Major Jack Lamerton, another pedigree Friesian breeder at Tavistock in Devon.

But in Essex the Hundsdoerfers managed to save a little by running a few acres on their own account, concentrating on pigs and poultry. Then they sold the chickens so as to be able to afford to buy some calves.

In 1959, with about £900 in savings, the support of the Agricultural Credit Association, a tolerant bank manager and a keenness to get on, they took their present farm. They also got the backing of National Agricultural Advisory Service through the local AEC officials and their landlord, so they launched a Small Farm Scheme.

Grants to approximately £1,000 have been forthcoming for land improvement in the form of ploughing out and reseeded. A new range of buildings has been provided, including a Dutch barn, facilities for the self-feeding of silage, a chute type three-point milking parlour with an adjacent collecting yard and various other buildings.

Forty-four of the 62 acres have been reseeded, and these have been put down to straight Italian rye grass S.22 or four years leys that ensure maximum output. There are also 4½ acres of kale and another 4½ in peas, vetches and oats for arable silage.

About 220 tons of silage were made last year. It is hoped to produce 80 tons more this season all for self feeding the dairy herd which at present extends to 27 cows and heifers.

MILK BY THE TON

In National Milk Records for the past year the 10 cows with completed lactations averaged 11,055lb. and four heifers 8,532lb. at 3.64 per cent. butter fat on a calving index of 394 days. Among them are two cows which have yielded over 50 tons of milk each.

Purchases of foundation stock included animals from the Keasden Pleasant, Highmill, Rosedene and Dringside herds. The breeding policy is based on artificial insemination with the Hunday bull, Ironside Texan as the nominated sire.

Cows that fall below 1,000 gallons are culled, and the target butter fat is 4 per cent. As time goes, several of the older animals will be leaving the herd, again with an eye



Mrs. H. D. Hundsdoerfer

of better butter fat figures. Mr. Hundsdoerfer's objective is one cow per acre, coupled with maximum sufficiency from grazing and silage. He hopes that the size of his farm will be extended considerably.

FERTILISERS

An extensive fertilising programme is producing good results. There was a deficiency in potash, but this has been corrected.

Compounds are going on at the rate of four cwt. per acre, plus two cwt. of nitro chalk. All this is complementary to the manure from the loose housing which is ploughed in.

This farm stands at about 500 feet above sea level. It is in an area which has a comparatively high rainfall, but yet with relatively little atmospheric pollution as compared with many other parts of the West Riding. Mr. Hundsdoerfer is modelling his grassland policy on that of many other of his fellow members of the Yorkshire Grassland Society, notably Mr. Oliver Barraclough, of Thornton, Bradford. Until now he has been content with the buckrake for getting his silage.

He may soon go in for zero grazing, for which, he feels, the farm would be ideal. Without many adjustments he is also ready for the bulk collection of milk.

LABOUR SAVING

The equipment, especially the milking parlour and the self-feeding of silage, has been designed for labour saving. Mr. Hundsdoerfer runs his holding with the assistance of a pupil, Anthony Olleranshaw, 18, of Embsay, near Skipton, who is eventually going to Hutton Farm Institute.

Mrs Hundsdoerfer is always willing to help in busy times. She originally came from Germany for a nursing career.

Pigs form another major enterprise, for they kept 12 Large White breeding sows which are crossed for porker production by a Landrace boar. Litters are averaging 10.5 reared, and early weaning leads to a heavy throughput.

THE Judges at the Fancy Dress



on
Tubisee
day.
on the
Cricket
field
Rylstone
Station

1977

M,WARD ↘
STEPHON BUTCHER
as HOOLA HOOLA
GIRL



Miss Wilson's
Brother took
these.

Some of
those who
dressed up
and some
who collected
Round
about

ROBERT FELL
JUSTINE GARTER.