

# Tend 130 milking Holsteins

A. A. Wall, Agricultural Representative for York County.

Our visit to Louis Longo's was a particularly good one, and bound to influence our ideas and opinions on modern dairy farming.

This visit was one of several made by members of the York County Holstein Club to farms near Hartford, Connecticut. Forty-eight Holstein men made the trip by air.

The Longo farm has about 130 cows milking, plus young stock and dry cows. It's operated by two men, which seems an almost impossible achievement in labour efficiency.

Free stall housing, a milking parlour, all silage feeding, and good building lay-out were obviously responsible for cutting labour needs a way down.

The herd average was almost 18,000 lbs. of milk, average interval between calvings was 11.9 months, and average number of lactations completed per cow was 6.2. These are exceptional records and the kind that really makes money.

From our discussion with Mr. Longo, a lot of things were contributing

Grain fed according to production, extremely careful attention to breeding, sound culling, selection in breeding for strong feet and legs, and a program for the fast growth and development of young stock, seemed to be the main points.

The cost cutting features of the set-up were the use of bunker silos, outside feeding, pole barns, free stalls, and feeding silage with tractor and loader. Mr. Longo condemned tower silos, feed augers, silo unloaders, hay balers, gutter cleaners, stanchion barns, straw bedding, and even hay, for adding unnecessary costs to production.

These seem like the views of a radical or someone looking for publicity. But when Longo tells his story in the barnyard, with 18 years in the milk business and success all around him, his ideas have to be taken seriously.

Some of the conditions are different here. Our land will beat his a mile for growing hay. He can buy protein a lot cheaper than we can. His marketing situation is different.

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