



MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE
600 S. Frederick Ave
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-1101



SAVAGE-LEIGH FARM

WELCOME TO SAVAGE-LEIGH FARM!

Our farm has been in the family since April 1939. Harry and Osie Savage bought the farm which at that time had the existing house, and one gray shingled barn. They had twelve children, many of which are still farming. The first cows milked at the farm were mostly grade Holsteins (Black and White Cows). The milking procedure took place in the gray barn and all milking was done by hand. The milk was then placed in milk cans and kept cool in an ice house. The milk was sold to Embassey and distributed by Thompson's Dairy.

The large sixty stall, 110 ft. long cow barn you see was built by the family in December of 1940. After the completion of this barn, we had our first large herd of cows here consisting of approximately 50 animals still milked by hand twice a day. In the year 1943, we changed to milker machines.

The first Registered Holsteins were purchased by bids at the Navy Academy in 1945. When registering animals you must have a prefix - ours since that time has been SAVAGE-LEIGH.

After the death of Harry and Osie Savage, the farm was sold out of the family. But, three sons Leroy, Melvin and Kenneth continued renting the farm. In 1965, Kenneth died and the farm was

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carried on by Leroy and Melvin. In 1975 Melvin's two sons, Wayne and Denny became partners, working here since childhood. In 1981, Leroy retired and the Savage-Leigh partnership became Melvin, Wayne and Denny Savage and Families.

All the buildings which you see have been built by our family. The grain set-up was constructed so we can harvest, dry and store our own grain until needed. We started our double ten herringbone milking parlor in the summer of 1976. We completed it in the fall of 1976 and started milking in the parlor on December 23, 1976. Up to this time, we did all the milking in our large cow barn. Our parlor does not cut down on milking time, but does not need as much man power to operate. Three people can do the milking in our parlor. When entering the parlor, cows are fed according to milk production by a push button feeding system. The milking process takes place at 5:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and takes approximately 2 1/2 hours. We are in the process of converting to a computer feeding system outside the parlor. This way we can control the amount of feed our cows consume between milkings. We program into the computer the amount of feed each cow is to consume per day. As you can see, each cow has an orange neck band with a number. When the cow enters the feeder, the feeder computes the number and feeds her accordingly. The computer will give us a print-out of each cow and the amount she has eaten that day. This program will also help detect health problems within our herd. Herd health is a very important factor to us. To have Grade A milk, you must have a healthy herd of cows. Most of the breeding on our farm is done artificially by Wayne and Denny using frozen semen

from various bull studs in the U.S. Having Registered animals and knowing their ancestry, we can select a bull with traits to correct faults in our herd. Breed Improvement is important to Today's Dairymen!

At the present time, we are milking 160 Registered Holstein cows. (Our whole herd is Registered.) We have approximately 110 calves and heifers not yet at breeding age, 74 bred heifers and 37 dry cows. (Cows are turned dry 60 days before calving to give them a rest period.)

Since October of 1977, we have held an annual production sale to cut our herd size due to surplus milk.



We do all our own planting, harvesting and spraying of crops. We farm approximately 1500 acres. At the present time, we have 200 acres in pasture, 276 acres in corn, 200 acres in hay, 60 acres in wheat, 105 acres in barley, and 165 acres in soybeans. We have also let ground lay unplanted this year due to the surplus of corn in the U.S. We are participating in the government program called PIK. (Payment In Kind)

We grow all the corn for our ensilage which is stored in large concrete bottom ground trenches and covered with large sheets of black plastic. We do not use upright silos due to cost and maintenance. We grow all our hay which consists of Alfalfa, Orchardgrass and Timothy.



We hope you enjoy your visit with us today. If you have any questions, feel free to ask any of your hosts or hostesses. Come visit us at the Montgomery County Fair, August 22 to 27, where we exhibit our show ring animals.

REMEMBER, WE'RE FOR REAL DAIRY PRODUCTS AND HOPE YOU ARE TOO!



LOOK

FOR THE REAL SEAL!

FONDLY, THE SAVAGES

Melvin & Mary
Wayne & Cindee
Chip
Kelli
Jami
Ryan
Denny & Ginger
Amy
Jenny

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