

# Milking system works wonders on dairy

By Linda Goodwin

Last year, Paul and Arnie Johnson of Jonalpa Farm, Inc. in Baldwinsville, N.Y., were totally disgusted with the way their cows were coming into the milking parlor. They were also frustrated with the high number of machine kick-offs they experienced during milking. The brothers had read articles in farm newspapers about Copulsation, introduced at the 1995 New York Farm Show, and wondered if that could help them.

"When we read the Odyssey Farm article, [*New York Farmer*, August issue, page 25] we decided to go for it," Paul said. "We contacted Gehms and they came right out with their demonstration unit."

Once the brothers saw how quietly the cows stood during milking and how completely they were milked out, Paul said, "That was it."

Although the Johnsons were planning to complete installation of a new Surge Autoflow milking parlor

before making any other major changes, once they saw such a dramatic behavioral change in their cows, they decided not to wait for the new parlor. They purchased four Copulsation units in August 1995.

"The difference is like night and day," said Arnie. "Almost all the animals just stand there, there's no more kicking the milkers off."

"The cows come in so much better now, it's unbelievable," said Paul. "Now, first-calf-heifers are the first ones in the parlor after about one week's time, and they don't kick."

The brothers have also recently purchased some new, S6000 (silicone) inflations from IBA. The inflations have a triangular bore which has eliminated even the handful of knock-offs the brothers occasionally experienced.

The Johnsons ship their milk to Byrne Dairy. "We don't use anything up in the teat, said Paul. "We don't even dry treat."



Arnie Johnson preps #84 for milking. Notice the tightness of her udder.

Instead, on the advice of their vet, they use an immune stimulant and Endovac.

Paul and Arnie, with the assistance of Paul's son Steve, a high-school student, milk 90 grade Holsteins twice daily in a single-4 Surge parlor which was built in 1966.

The young men rent their

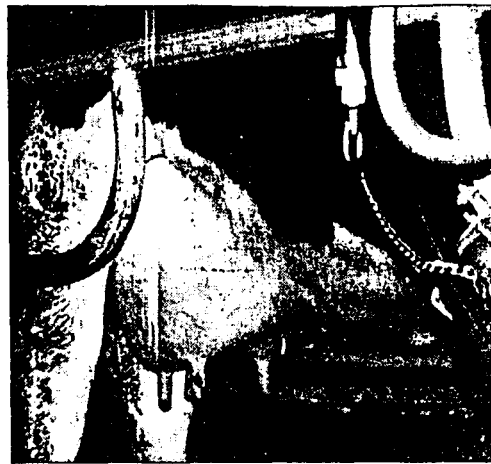
400-acre farm from their father Toby, who spends winters in Florida and provides summer help on the farm. The business is set up as a corporation.

The herd is fed a grain mixture, haylage and high-moisture ground ear corn. "We don't put up any corn silage at all," said Paul. "We haven't in the past 30 years."

The haylage is a mixture of alfalfa and orchard grass, planted using conservation tillage techniques.

"Our hay ground usually gets disked twice and planted with a Brillion seeder, and the corn is planted no-till using an International Subsoiler or V-ripper," said Paul.

The farm has a liquid manure storage system with a three-month capacity, and manure is spread with a rear discharge Martin V Spreader. Jonalpa



Following milking with Copulsation, note the completely empty, relaxed udder on #84.

Farm, Inc. is in Onondaga County not far from where other farmland has been sold for development. However, Paul said their land is "pretty well



Paul Johnson is thrilled with the change in the behavior of the herd since switching to a Copulsation milking system last August.

connected up and down the road, but houses are springing up to the south of here."

Jonalpa Farm is on DHIA test and has a rolling herd average of 23,100 pounds of milk. Although last year's average Linear Score was only 2.8, since installing Copulsation,

that has dropped further to just 2.3. Arnie said, "When they come out of the parlor their udders hang like deflated balloons. They sure don't carry any extra milk around with them."

He also said "I think with the way they milk out so completely, there's less stress on the udder and we should be able to get a couple more lactations out of each cow."

"Copulsation is my bST," said Paul, "I want to see if I can get more milk out of them that way. If we totally milk them out and make a few more pounds per cow, we'll probably be just as far ahead."