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Some of 500 head of Holsteins milked twice daily are shown in their stanchions at Ridgedale Farms operation near Pala. The 1,034-acre Pala Ranch on

AGRICULTURE NEWS

New Dairy Built In Record Time

By LARRY FREEMAN

PALA — Subdividers building in river bottoms in the San Diego area have nothing on dairymen.

Out of the San Luis Rey River bottoms, on state High way 76, two miles east of U.S. Highway 395, has suddenly sprung a dairy operation complete with 600 cows.

Donald L. Brewer, manager of the 1,034-acre Pala Ranch, on which the new dairy has been built, believes it's the county's largest single dairy operation.

The dairy went up as fast as subdivisions. First leveling was started last year in October. Joe Lucio of Escondido, who leases the new dairy, milked the first cow March 3.

The plant includes not only a completely automatic milking system for 160 cows, but has seven pastel-colored stucco homes of three and four bedrooms, six for milkers and seven for Lucio, who formerly operated the Cloverdale Dairy on the San Pasqual Road.

There also are four hay sheds housing 750 tons each and numerous other utility structures.

PURCHASED IN 1938

The L-shaped ranch was purchased June 24, 1938 by the Ridgedale Corporation, of which "A. M. Gormley, president of the California Milk Co., is head. Gormley plans to live on his ranch part of the time.

The ranch was bought from Gordon and Roland Wight, who at the time had thriving peach and apricot orchards.

Brewer says Gormley looked over many California ranches before selecting the Pala site and the basis for his decision, as might be expected, was water.

There are nine wells on the ranch, each producing 1,000 gallons a minute or more.

Brewer, who has his office at the "old home place," a mile east of the new dairy farm, said that "it might be a calculated risk" to build a dairy in a river bottom.

"But it's a good gamble," he said. "There's less rain, and more dams, and besides, there's not much other level ground and the dairy is easily accessible to milk tank trucks."

3,000-GALLON TANK

So highly automatic is the dairy that the milkers, who have scarcely have a thing the Carnation home farms to do except attach the milk-line near Seattle. All breeding is by machine to the cow, and by artificial insemination.

The machine to the pipe which Brewer is right at home on shoots the milk into a 3,000-gallon tank. The tank is made of stainless steel bulk with his wife and three children. He grew up on a dairy near Modesto, Calif.

Brewer conceded that the farm near Modesto, Calif., men must do a little manual and was graduated in dairy washing of the cows at his husbandry at California State though automatic sprinklers. Polytechnic College at San almost like those in lawns. Luis Obispo in 1956.

which the dairy herd is pastured is believed to be largest in county. Barn shows accommodates 160 cows, milked, fed and washed down automatically.



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