

Each
profile
contains
a
description
of the
herd's
history

The Farrell Family

The Farrell family from Trillick-a-Temple just outside Longford Town has had a tradition of breeding Hereford cattle going back to James Farrell who founded the *Trillick Herd* in 1947. James won 1st. prize in the RDS in 1961 with *Trillick Notary* whom he sold for 730 gns.

James was succeeded by his son Patrick, and the tradition continues with Patrick's son J. J. and his wife Concepta, and on into the fourth generation with Ciarán, Hanna and Clare, J. J. and Concepta's children.

Today the *Trillick Herd* consists of 30 breeding cows (the Farrells also run a 100-cow dairy herd), with management responsibility mainly falling on J. J.'s shoulders. He grew up with Herefords and holds a passion for the breed which is currently taking the herd to new heights.

J. J. has imported stock bulls from England, most notably *Free Town Hotspur*, purchased from Rd. Bradstock (*q.v.*). Two of his sons, *Trillick Hotspur* and *Trillick George*, have entered AI in Ireland. The movement has now been reversed with J. J. recently selling six bulls into England.

The Farrells intend to expand their herd and to extend their contacts in the Hereford breeding world. Their passion for the Hereford and J. J.'s belief in the importance of strong stock bulls, are likely to see to that.

J. J. Farrell with recent arrivals in the Trillick Herd.



Ann and John FitzGerald

Ann and John FitzGerald run a mixed farm at Gobbinstown, New Ross (Wexford) where they milk 50 Montbéliarde and 40 Holstein-Friesian cows. Both herds are pure-bred and have separate breeding programmes. All progeny is reared on the farm and the FitzGeralds have sold many breeding heifers and bulls in Ireland and England.

The move to Montbéliardes happened by chance. Ann won a heifer, *Cleona*, in a competition at the Ploughing Match in Enniscorthy in '94 and decided to breed from her - this was on the advice of her aunt, who told Ann never to sell her luck. How right she was !

Cleona first had four bulls and then followed with two heifers, *Jewels* and *Kim*. Matters were advancing nicely, but then disaster struck : BSE hit the herd and the farm was cleared of all stock.

That was in March 2002 and when re-stocking in the autumn the FitzGeralds bought eight Montbéliarde heifers at a sale held by David Clarke in Mullingar in October. Over the next few years they bought another twelve and from that foundation stock of 20 heifers the herd has grown to 50 cows. The breeding programme is based on top-quality AI semen imported from France and the advice of a technician from France who visits breeders in Ireland every year.

Ann and John FitzGerald (and Lass) with their 'Montys'.

