



WEST STREET FARMHOUSE: Members of the Jeffery family have been tenant farmers there for seventy years or more.



DORSET HORN EWES of the West Street registered flock. Except for some maize and beans the farm provides all the feed for the thirty-four ewes, two rams and fifteen lambs. Lambing takes place in October. In the background is the parish church of Seavington St. Mary.



A WEST STREET RAM, home-bred, one of the two being used on the flock, with some of his companions. When he was shown in 1958 he won a number of second prizes.



POTATO LIFTING: Mrs. Jeffery, assisted by Frank Scott who has been on the farm for seventeen years, likes field work. Quite often, in the summer, she does a seven-day week.



DEEP LITTER HENS: Two hundred laying birds are kept and these—Thornbers 505—are in their second laying year.

shear a sheep and is also on the junior panel of judges of the Dorset Horn Breed Society.

The farm carries seventy-four home-bred Friesians—thirty-six in milk and forty followers and over the last two years Mrs. Jeffery has increased the number of milkers by six. It is a commercial herd and A.I. is used. Recording was started just under a year ago and so they have not yet received a figure for a year's average.

Gillian and the dairyman, William Shires, who has worked on the farm for twenty-seven years, share the milking. When Gillian does take time off it is usually for a Y.F.C. occasion and she is a strong supporter of the Ilminster club. Last year she won the club's Best Calf competition and she has represented Somerset once in cattle judging competitions. In a recent tractor backing competition she and two boys from the club were the only three to complete the operation correctly.

Mrs. Jeffery likes field work and with good daily help indoors she is able to spend all the day on the farm. She prefers the hard slog of the work on the sledge of the baler to driving the tractor and has carried out that task for the 65 acres of hay baled this summer. She does a full share of the work of the potato harvest, and tractor hoeing is another of the many jobs she undertakes. She has 200 laying birds in deep litter but she does not claim to be devoted to hens. This year 17½ acres are down to corn,

barley, oats and dredge and the oats and dredge are kept for stock feed. Half an acre of early potatoes have been harvested and there are 3 acres of main crop.

Root crops this year are mangolds, 4 acres; swedes, 2 acres; and half an acre of turnips sown after the early potatoes for sheep folding. 4½ acres of kale are being grown for the dairy herd.

Mrs. Jeffery and Gillian are by no means the only farming-minded members of the family. Pam, now aged twelve, takes just about two minutes to change when she comes home from school and is then out on the farm to help with any job that needs doing and four-year-old Elizabeth can already put the right name to all the crops on the farm.



TAKING THE FORE MILK: Gillian milks twice a day and seldom takes time off. She has represented Somerset in Y.F.C. cattle judging competitions.



WILLIAM SHIRES is the dairyman and shares the milking with Gillian. He has worked on the farm for twenty-seven years. The Friesian calves being fed are about five months old.