

Holstein Assn. Hears Classifier At Barn Meeting

by Everett Newswanger
Staff Reporter

The official type inspector for the National Holstein Association, Ronald Chapman, Emmetsburg, Iowa, told 95 local breeders at John Harnish's Pondbank Farm, 1026 Beaver Valley Pike, Lancaster, last Friday evening that milk production comes first but a herd with good body conformation

is a close second. "You are better off financially with good type," he said.

Speaking at the Lancaster County Holstein Association's annual barn meeting, Chapman urged the use of only one or two bulls as herd sires "People are a little lost in their breeding program," he stated "We have jumped around too much. The artificial breeding units are a 'God send' — just use them right," he cautioned.

To breed a uniform herd of cattle the inspector said that you need to classify your herd to know your major weak-

nesses and settle down to one or two bulls that are known to correct that weakness. "A bull stamps a pattern" the classifier continued. "But don't blame it all on the bull." Chapman credited the dam with at least 60 percent of the body type characteristics transmitted to the next generation.

There are 189 Holstein herds, with approximately 5,000 cows, now being classified by four inspectors in the southeastern Pennsylvania district classification program.

Free-Stall

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a spreader in a pit, and hauled to the fields. It takes two men about two hours daily to scrape and clean the barns.

The farm has a goal of 200 head milking. They now have 185 head, including heifers that will freshen in April and May.

The cows are milked in a herring bone, double-six milking parlor by two men. The operation takes about four hours a day. The cows are also fed their grain ration at this time with each animal receiving one pound of grain for each three pounds of milk.

Hufford figures there is some loss in production with this system of management, but he feels the net economic advantage it offers a large herd far offsets the production loss. In spite of the addition of about 40 heifers to the herd each year, last year's DHIA record showed better than 13,000 pounds of milk with 493-pound fat average for the 140 cows on test.

One difficulty with any form of loose housing can be the problem of catching cows

for breeding if they are particularly skittish. Hufford said this is a very minor problem and one that generally causes them no trouble.

One of several interesting features of the Stroud operation is the 12-inch concrete curbing that runs the length of the feed bunk. Hufford said this has served two purposes: 1) the cows stand with their front feet on the curb and this keeps them in close to the bunk and discourages their pulling silage out and wasting it; 2) it also makes it difficult for "boss" cows to push others away from the bunk.

Corn silage is augered twice daily into the bunk from a hopper that is filled by a scoop on the tractor. The silage is hauled from a huge trench silo located nearby.

In addition to handling the 185-head herd, the three men and manager Hufford with

Farm Calendar

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Mar 30 — 8:30 p.m. 4-H Leaders' Banquet at Hostetter's Banquet Hall, Mount Joy.
Mar 31 — Chester County Dairy Clinics: 1 p.m. at Honey Brook Fire Hall; 8 p.m. Oxford High School Library.
Apr 2 — 7:30 p.m. 4-H Tractor Club roundup and exhibit with presentation of awards, and 4-H Forestry Club exhibits — both at Farm Bureau bldg., Dillerville Rd., Lancaster.
Apr 3 — 10 a.m. Community Farm Sale in Georgetown sponsored by Bart Twp. Fire Company.

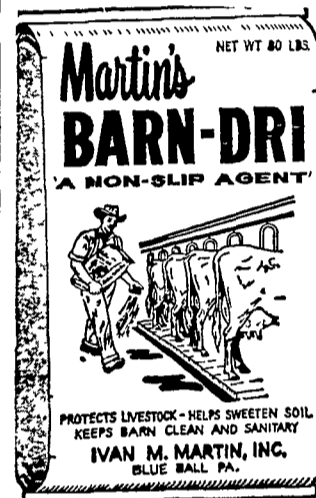
the help of one part-time man in the summer also farm 175 acres of alfalfa, 120 acres of corn, and 80 acres of small grain, plus care for 75 head of heifers and Angus steers on another farm.



A SCENE AT THE HOLSTEIN ASSN. BARN MEETING. Checking type points are (l to r) Roy Book, Ronks, president; Arthur Wenger, Manheim, committee chairman, John Harnish, Lancaster, owner of the herd where meeting was held; and Ronald Chapman, Emmetsburg, Iowa, official Holstein classifier.

L. F. Photo

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