

Dairy Groups To Help Develop Sire System

The Holstein-Friesian Association recently became the first dairy cattle breed organization to sign a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to unify programs that evaluate breeding stock.

The Holstein group has maintained a breed registry system, including record-keeping, which dates back to 1885. Its records, and those of other breed organizations, have supplemented the broader, industrywide record-keeping system of the Dairy

Herd Improvement Association, begun in 1906. DHIA is a cooperative effort of USDA, the federal and state extension services, state cooperatives, and farmers' organizations.

Production records are important. DHIA members have been able to improve their breeding and feeding plans to the extent that they marketed 3,600 more pounds of milk per cow in 1966 than non-member farmers. Furthermore, ARS scientists use DHIA records as the basis for

extensive farm research, such as refined techniques to predict genetic value of breeding stock.

USDA and Holstein officials agree that evaluating and using bulls according to breeding value is necessary for genetic improvement, and that farmers need a single, uniform sire index for production. They also agree that the recently improved USDA system of sire-index calculation is the most useful method available. By using USDA data, breed groups will no

longer have to pay for separate sire indexes.

In addition, production records in USDA's extensive files more than double the information on registered Holstein cows that the Holstein group has at hand. It will be able to expand the overall usefulness of these records and increase its record-keeping efficiency.

According to the cooperative agreement, the Holstein-Friesian Association will use USDA sire summaries and identify them as such. The group also can use DHIA milk production records of Holstein cows, pro-

FDA Clears Amprol For Wider Poultry Use

A recent ruling by the Food and Drug Administration has cleared the way for the coccidiostat "Amprol" to be fed to replacement pullets until the onset of egg production, rather than only for the first 14 weeks of life, as had previously been permitted.

In addition, Amprol now may be used at approved levels to treat outbreaks of coccidiosis in laying hens, according to the drug's manufacturer Merck & Co., Inc. Eggs from flocks so treated may be sold, according to the new ruling.

The company notes that since the new clearance went into effect, feed suppliers have been revamping feed programs to use this increased latitude in working out coccidiosis protection programs for their customers.

vided they are properly identified. The Holstein group will pay the extra cost involved to prepare the magnetic tapes needed for prompt, personalized reports on Holstein cattle to be furnished by ARS.

ARS agrees to furnish the magnetic tapes giving sire indexes and updated production records of Holstein cows three times per year. Similar arrangements are being negotiated with other breed organizations.

In announcing the agreement, both parties stated that farmers will be the greatest beneficiaries because breed records on their cattle will be more uniform, more up-to-date, more broadly based, and as accurate as the latest statistical research can make them.

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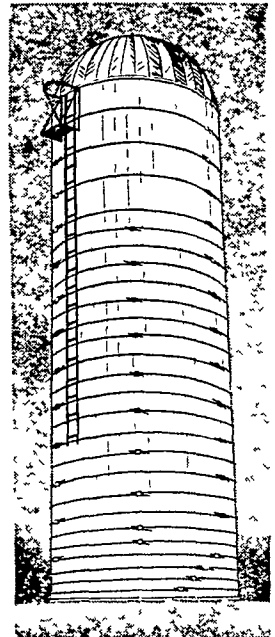


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