

● **Round-Table**

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appetite. Like a well attached udder that milks out fast and a good set of legs and feet. Good legs and feet seem hard to come by in Holsteins. The other type characteristics are nice but don't seem to me to add much to a cow's producing ability or longevity.

LANDIS—When buying a cow to take the place of another in the herd I look for one that is above the average of the herd in type and production and also the price is considered. However, most of the cows in our herd are raised out of our own stock choosing only those which come out of our better cows.

EBY—For herd replacement I raise heifers and try not to place more than 6 or 8 heifers in our herd out of 12 or 15 which we raise annually. The surplus we sell at consignment sales and privately. In selecting replacements we look for types which will be Very Good or high Good Plus as a mature animal. For production we set our goal at about 12,000 lbs of milk in a 2 year-old. We also try to have our heifers freshen during the base making period. We like our heifers upstanding with a good set of legs early maturing with size big enough to freshen as senior yearlings and aggressive eaters.

SHELLENBERGER—When selecting a cow for replacement, we are always looking for better cows. We look for a cow that is well developed with good confirmation. A cow that has good dairy characteristics—good head and top line, deep bodied with a rugged frame with great capacity for feed intake. This cow must be well tempered with a pleasing disposition.

Last but not most important is the udder attachment and teat placement. Normally we hope

to a cow in her first lactation to yield 12,000 to 15,000 lbs of milk with 175 to 500 lbs of fat. In our adult cows we hope for 20,000 milk with 700 lbs of butter.

How do you select your herd sire?

NISSLEY—I use Atlantic Breeders Bulls. Each year I choose three proven bulls that seem to best complement my cows and use them for that year plus a few services to young bulls. I never breed more than about 12 cows to one bull until he is proven in my herd.

LANDIS—In selecting a herd sire we try to choose a bull that increases production and improves the quality of the cow. We use the "materite" program for improving type. We must use 100% Atlantic sires, using several different sires.

EBY—In selecting our herd sires we are now using a sire with high production and a little less fat as we have a butterfat average of over 40% for the past 2½ years. Also his daughters must classify well above breed average. We are watching color markings as we have had trouble with a few black switches, and almost a black leg.

SHELLENBERGER—For the most part we use artificial insemination. However, in selecting a bull for mating we take into consideration the individual cow and try to improve on her weak points. For example—If we have a high producing cow with a poor fore udder, we select a sire who is strong in this point. Thus we hope to come up with an improved cow over the dam.



GROWTHY HEIFERS. John M. Nissley, Bainbridge RD #1, looks over a group of his replacement heifers. The heifers are future cows in Nissley's dairy.

herd that has a rolling herd average over 600 pounds of butterfat and last year had a D.H.I.A. average on 38.3 cows of 16,965 pounds of milk and 629 pounds of butterfat.

L. F. Photo

In selecting a herd sire for natural service, we choose a cow family with good type and production along with the ability to transmit these qualities on to her progeny.

Would you please describe your calf-raising program?

NISSLEY—Calves are taken from the dam usually after six or eight hours. They are then given a shot of antibiotics and vitamins and put into individual pens.

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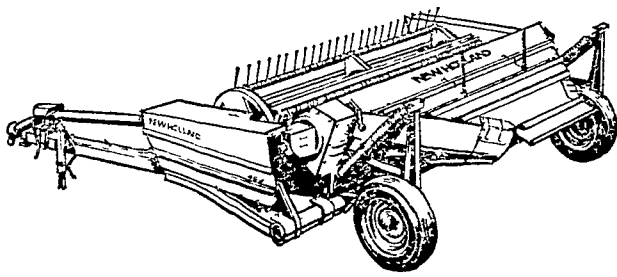
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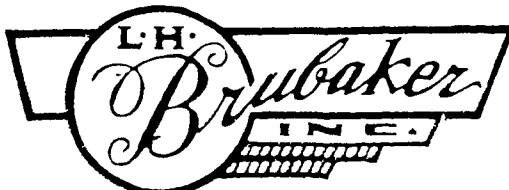
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