

# On Selecting the 4-H Heifer Calf

By Victor Plastow  
Associate County Agent

Most 4-H dairy members start the project with a heifer calf.

This first step is very important. Carefully consider how to select this calf. Points to include:

**Breed** — One of the first questions will be, "Which breed shall I choose?" Often the breed selected is that of the home herd. Sometimes another breed, popular in the community, is selected. This breed may offer a better market when animals are for sale.

**Age of calf** — It is usually best for younger club members to start with a calf only a few months old. Animals of this age cost less and are easier to handle and

train, and the member grows up with the calf. The club member also gains the experience of raising a calf. A disadvantage is greater difficulty in selecting a good type.

**Records** — The two points which are important in selecting a calf as a foundation animal or as a herd replacement are production and type. Select a calf sired by a proved sire or a son of a proved sire and out of a cow or cow family that has shown, by production records, the ability to maintain a high level of milk production.

Investigate record books and life history sheets available in dairy herd improvement work to learn the level of production that may be expected from the animal.

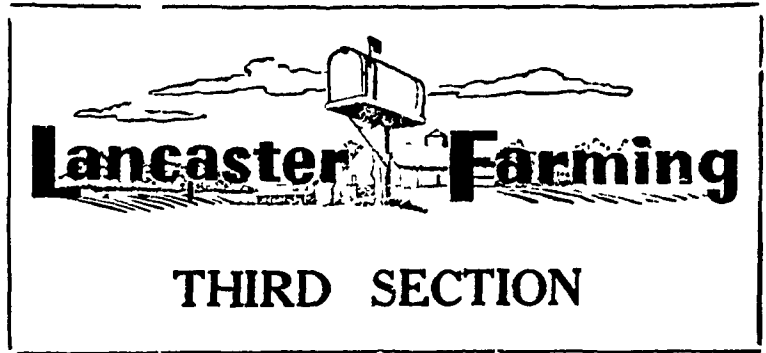
The records in the pedigree of an animal help predict how good the animal may be as a producing cow. The more information collected regarding the records of production of the animal's ancestors, the more successful the club member will be in determining the production potential of the animal.

**Example** How to read a record — 3 year, 1 moth 305 days, 2X, 14,420M 3.98% 574F. For that lactation, the cow freshened at 3 years, 1 month of age, the first 305 days of her lactation she was milked twice a day (2X) producing 14,420 pounds of milk with a 3.9 per cent test and 574 pounds of butterfat.

Records are made and recorded in any number of ways. It is necessary, therefore, to be able to standardize all records to somewhat near the same basis.

The three most emphasized corrections are age, number of days milked, and the frequency of milking daily. DHIA records are standardized to 305 days, mature basis, milked two times daily. To change a 365 day record to a 305 day record, multiply the 365 day record by the factor .85. To change a three-time milking

record to a two-time record, multiply by the factor .833. Appearance of the calf — The type and conformation of the calf are also important. When we talk about type in dairy cattle, we mean those points or parts of a cow as illustrated on judging cards. A daily animal (Continued on Page 39)



On the right track is Barbara Aaron, Quarryville RD1, who displays her grand champion Jersey at the South Central 4-H Dairy Show.

## Holstein-Friesian Association Announces Outstanding Animals

Gold Medal Dam status has been awarded a cow owned by Jefferson D. Yoder, Elverson.

The Holstein-Friesian Association of America gave the recognition based on the animal's ability to transmit outstanding milk production and desirable body conformation.

The cow, Rocky-Side Donna 5753311 (GP), completed her career in 1969 "Donna" qualified as a super blood cow with the mature equivalent average of three records being 15,892 pounds of milk and 590 pounds of butterfat.

Her qualifying Registered Holstein daughters have attained the following type and production levels (ME basis) as reported by the Holstein Association.

Rocky-Side Deliah (GP) with three records averaging 22,614 pounds of milk and 841 pounds of butterfat, Rocky-Side Fancy (VG) with two records averaging

16,680 pounds of milk and 684 pounds of butterfat, and Rocky-Side Mint (GP) with a single record of 17,777 pounds of milk and 735 pounds of butterfat.

Production testing and type classification information must be available in order to evaluate cows nominated for this award. The Holstein organization, largest dairy breed association in the world registers over a quarter of a million animals each year.

The Holstein-Friesian Association also has awarded a Gold Medal Sire to a bull owned by Northeastern Breeders Association, Inc., Tunkhannock.

Only those Registered Holstein bulls having daughters that meet high standards in both milk production and body conformation are awarded Gold Medal honors. This recognition has been given under the re-

vised rules which became effective January 1, 1968.

The bull Pencil G Ivanhoe Pabst 1447125 (VG), permanently joins the Gold Medal Sire ranks after being designated as both Production and Type Qualified in a recently published issue of Registered Holstein Sire Performance Summaries.

The 2,909th yearly production record exceeding a half ton of butterfat has been completed by a Registered Holstein cow, Fultonway Cusscross Regina 6334755 (GP), owned by J. Mowery Frey Jr., Fultonway Farms, Lancaster.

The Pennsylvania Holstein's official record of production totaled 19,374 pounds of milk and 1,041 pounds of butterfat in 365 days. She started her lactation at the age of 3 years 8 months and was milked twice daily.

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## Hersheys' Stone Farm House About 230 Years Old

# Dairying in a Historic Setting

By Mrs. Charles McSparran  
Lancaster Farming  
Feature Writer

Lancaster County is truly notorious for its fine dairy farms, rich soil, well-kept farm buildings and in many cases the farms have a famous historical background.

At the present time, the Holstein seems to be the dominating breed of dairy cattle in the county, due to production records and to the lower butterfat content of their milk which has been in greater demand in recent years.

We have various sized herds, the trend though, like the size of our farms, seems to be toward larger herds.

A farm that can qualify on all these counts and is one of our average sized farms is that of Mr. and Mrs. H. Richard Hershey on Newport Road, just east of Route 501 and about a mile north of Lititz. They bought this farm nine years ago and prior to that rented a farm near Root's Auction, Manheim RD1, for 12 years.

There is an honest to goodness family farm with each one helping with the work. Mrs. Hershey, Barbara Ann, helps with the milking and feeding calves as

well as working out in the fields when necessary.

Their son Henry is very responsible and can manage it alone if his parents are away. His younger sisters also help with farm chores.

Their farm, Silver Summit, has 105 acres and they rent the Martin Muth farm of 70 acres. They keep 40 registered Holstein cows and about 35 heifers. They are in DHIA.

They have six Ivanhoe daughters with an average of 16,500 pounds of milk and 650 pounds of fat. The cows are on the home farm and some heifers and pigs are kept on the Muth farm.

They buy shoats and fatten them. At the present time they have 34 three-way crosses—Yorkshire, Hampshire and Duroc.

They also raise 250 capons for the Thanksgiving market, 500 for Christmas and 500 for Easter. Out of a 500 lot they dress about 200 and the rest are sold live. The children help with this project. The four oldest children have been in the Manheim Lititz 4-H Capon Club and won several prizes.

They raise corn, hay and wheat in connection with their (Continued on Page 36)



Barbara Ann holds her favorite piece of antique china. Her china set can be seen in the old corner cupboard.