

ABS Holds Open House During World Dairy Expo

by: Melissa Piper

Dairymen from across the United States and several foreign countries gathered for the World Dairy Expo held in Madison, Wisconsin, October 2-6th.

It was the 8th annual Expo representing the world's largest trade show for dairy farmers and drew a record crowd with its displays and daily showing and judging competitions.

Activities during the week included intercollegiate and 4-H judging events along with beef and dairy workshops. Breed judging of some of the finest cattle in the world was also a highlight of the week's activities.

Unique programs such as silo singing and polka parties also attracted many interested visitors.

Thursday evening, October 3rd, marked perhaps one of the most highly attended activities of all that being the World Premiere Holstein Sale. The sale offered 29 head of some of the most outstanding bulls and cows in the Holstein breed. Also auctioned off after the sales were numerous ampules of semen from some of the top sires in the breed.

American Breeders Help Organize Expo

American Breeders Service, the largest artificial cattle breeding organization in America represented one of the main organizational companies for the Expo.

American Breeders Service not only sponsored an outstanding booth display



Select sires are housed in the main barn facilities at the DeForest Headquarters of the American Breeders Service. Also located in the

barn is the organization's Hall of Fame featuring the history of the group and the outstanding sires that have been used over the years.

but also provided a hospitality wagon which toured the dairy barns in the early morning hours providing coffee and donuts for the dairymen.

ABS put many hours into the organizing activities at the Expo along with helping to obtain the official catalog for the show.

ABS Holds Open House The officials of the American Breeders Service not only manned the display

at the Dairy Expo but also opened their doors to myriad visitors wishing to learn more about their operation.

Visitors were invited to tour the companies' facilities at Madison and also their main stud farm in DeForest Wisconsin.

This writer along with a delegation of ABS personnel from Pennsylvania toured both the Madison and DeForest facilities learning first hand the workings of the company since its inception in 1941.

Since that period ABS has seen many remarkable changes helping the company not only to gain recognition in the dairy breeding field but also in the beef and horse areas.

The DeForest center or main stud farm as it is called, is located on 1100 acres and houses 600 bulls along with beef animals and 125 horses for research.

To maintain the best supply of superior sires for the future ABS has instigated the Young Sire Program. The young bulls screened from 300 animals must prove their worth by being mated with the highest producing daughters of the top tested sires in the nation.

This outstanding screening of young sires insures that in the future there will be

enough genetic material to maintain top producing dairy animals.

Provides Genetic Service
Perhaps one of the most interesting and novel programs in animal genetics has been the Genetic Mating Service provided by ABS.

The Genetic Mating Service (GMS) which at the present is only used for the Holstein Breed is a unique approach to mating animals that compliment each other in traits - thus providing

genetic material for sound offspring.

Richard Smith, director for the GMS program explained the operation by stating that the program is computerized with a number coding system. Programs that take into account the dairy features of some 45 bulls are already in existence. The next step is

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Brahma bulls are one of the many beef animals being kept at the ABS stud farm in DeForest. Evidently this Brahma wasn't too interested in the tour as his expression demonstrates.



American Breeders Service has a fleet of trucks that work on regular schedule delivering ordered semen

and supplies to technicians across the country.

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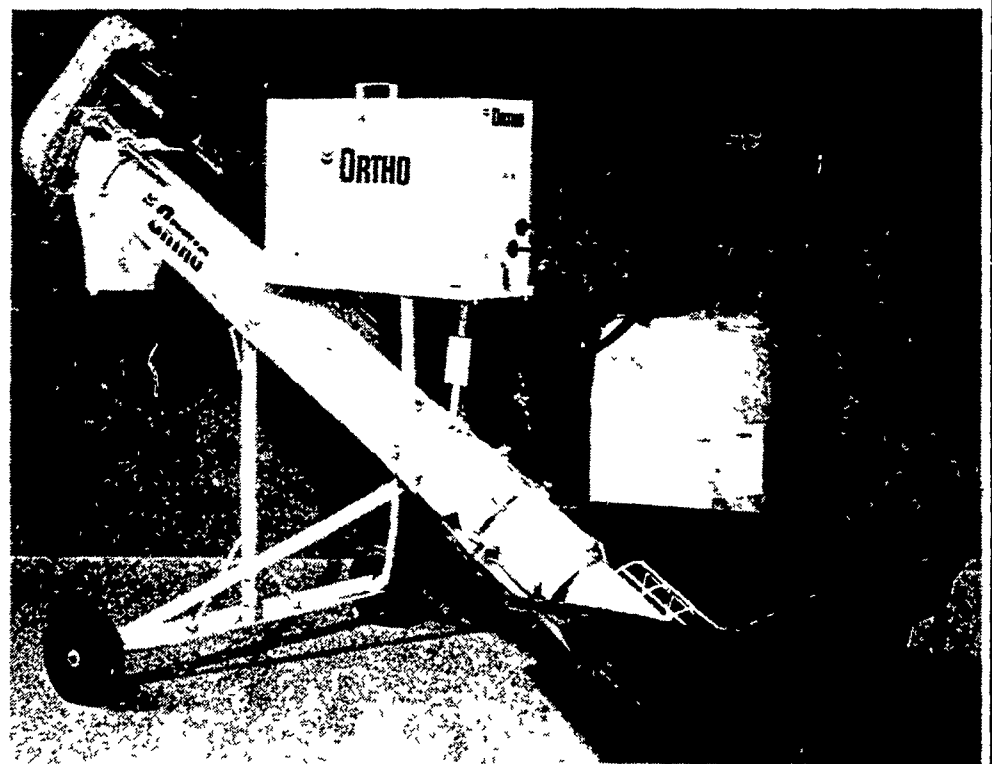
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