

Simmentals caught on at Rocky Springs

EQUINUNK, Pa. - Rocky Springs Farms, here, has received shipment of 29 registered Simmental heifers from Simmental Breeders Ltd. of Canada, it was announced late last year by Howard Bomze, Rocky Springs' owner, who selected the animals himself from SBL's herd of over 3500 animals at SBL's 12,000-acre in Cardston, Alberta. SBL's general manager, Ron Gibson, preceded the shipment to oversee preparation for its final transfer to Rocky Springs' new confinement system, and the charge of its manager, Tim Amlaw.

Howard Bomze said, "We were very pleased to be able to select the top purebreds from SBL's 1975 calf crop. We believe this gives us the highest percentage of

purebloods of any Simmental herd in the East, and it will enable us to provide superior breeding stock to other Simmental breeders and commercial herds."

The Simmental breed originated in Switzerland's Simme Valley, and is now widespread throughout Europe. Simmentals were introduced into North America in 1967 by SBL with the importation of the bull "Parisien," whose name has become a byword in the beef industry.

Simmentals are a dual purpose breed, combining meat and milk to an unusually high degree. Cows average 8000 pounds milk and a 4 per cent butterfat test. The well-muscled, rugged appearing cattle weigh in at approximately 1600-1700 pounds for cows and up to 2800 pounds for mature bulls. Simmentals are generally red and white, with a white face which appears to be dominant in inheritance, as with Herefords, although body color ranges from blonde to

the grey ("lavendar") and white combinations.

The 29 heifers, all of which are carrying the calves of the breed's top sires - "Galant," "Beat," "Extra Star," "Red Knight" and "Parisien," will add substantially to the already existing purebred Sim-

mental breeding herd at Rocky Springs Farms, where Black Angus, with a Wye Plantation herd sire have been furnishing registered Angus breeding stock for the past five years.

Rocky Springs Farms was the first farm in Pennsylvania to own a full-blooded Simmental bull.

Smut found

ST. PAUL, Minn. - Various smuts of wheat, barley and oats in several Midwest states were more serious in 1976, compared to previous years.

Plant disease specialists in states affected are pushing seed treatment more than ever. In Michigan, loose smut in wheat showed a "marked increase" last year, according to Larry Copeland, Michigan State University crop specialist.

"We've also seen a tremendous amount of corn smut this year," says Bob Nyvall, Extension plant

pathologist at Iowa State University. Dry weather and hail were two chief causes, he says. "With as much smut as we've seen on kernels and ears there must be some yield reductions from it," he adds.

Herb Johnson, plant pathologist at the University of Minnesota, said he's also received many more reports of corn smut this year. "In one case a farmer was hospitalized due to dusty conditions caused by the smut during harvest," he said. However, the smut itself is not toxic to humans or animals.

U.S. energy record 'disastrous'

WASHINGTON, D.C. - "A disastrous failure of national will" in the area of energy conservation is responsible for our steadily increasing dependence upon foreign oil, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Russell E. Train says.

But, Train added, "serious steps to cut waste and increase efficiency in our use of energy - including tax and other measures to make the price of gasoline reflect the true cost of consuming it" could significantly improve the situation.

The EPA Administrator declared that energy conservation "must be the keystone, the center piece, the fundamental basis of a national energy strategy. We should not look to energy conservation as a last resort, as a means of filling the gap after all efforts to improve supplies have been exhausted. On the contrary, we should look first to the

development and implementation of an optimum energy conservation policy - one that is consistent with a healthy economy - and then decided on the amount and the kinds of new energy supplies."

Train noted that since the 1973 Arab oil embargo:

U.S. oil imports have risen from 29 per cent to more than 40 per cent.

Arab oil now accounts for more than one-third of all U.S. oil imports whereas prior to the embargo it accounted for only 15 per cent.

Of 19 industrial, oil-importing nations including the U.S. that belong to the International Energy Agency, the conservation record of the U.S. ranks as "nearly the worst," Train stated.

He stressed energy conservation because "no single step could do more to alleviate our energy, our environmental and our economic difficulties. No single step could do more to strengthen our credibility and our clout in dealing with the other nations of the world - both the industrialized and the developing."

Train also examined a host of other international problems and possible solutions in his address. He spoke with an eye toward the agendas of two recent or current meetings: those of the Oil Producing and Exporting Countries concerning a possible price increase in exported oil, and talks between the "have" and "have-not" nations at the Paris Conference on International Cooperation.

Desertification, deforestation, soil erosion and other environmental devastation in the poor nations have occurred, according to Train, "not because of development, but because of a lack of development."

Train declared that "the food to feed these hungry and starving poor must come, not from the granaries of North America - although we must meet emergencies from these - but from their own earth and their own effort, and outside aid can have no more important and urgent aim than to help them develop an agriculture that is both strong and sustainable."

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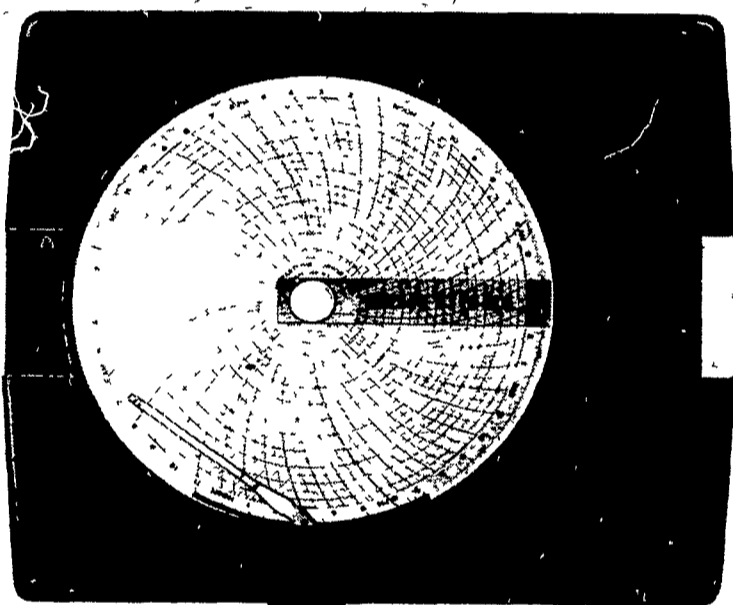
grain acreage is farmed weekends and evenings.

Like many successful livestock breeders, the Ebersoles willing assist county youth by serving as 4-H adult leaders. They have worked with the Ore Valley Community Club, the York County Lamb Club, and contribute the use of their animals to livestock judging practices. Steward is active in work with the Pennsylvania Hampshire Sheep Association and gives his time as a director for the organization.

Steve has spent the last few weeks grooming eight head, four ewes, and four rams, for the upcoming Farm Show classes. At age 20, he's too old to enter 4-H competition, but he's eagerly awaiting that first step into the open-class arena.



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