

Ephrata dairymen study sire analysis and selection

By DIETER KRIEG
 EPHRATA, Pa. - Meeting here for the third consecutive week last Tuesday, Ephrata Area Young and Adult Farmers brushed up on how to become more efficient in their cattle breeding. With sire summary analysis and sire selection as their main topics, the Young Farmers capped an educational program which in previous weeks centered on dairy cattle breeding and

physiology and reproductive problems.

Clarence Stauffer, who works full-time for the Holstein-Friesian association of America, and is a dairyman himself, explained how data in official sire summaries can be used to upgrade breeding programs. American Breeders Service representatives - Dan Rush and Darwin Yoder provided additional information on

mating guides as well as production and type proofs.

Stauffer advocated the use of one good proven bull in a herd, rather than several. He pointed out that the use of one bull will bring out uniformity of type. He also noted, however, that total performance indexes should be evaluated carefully by breeders to determine what kind of a job a bull might do on a particular cow or herd. The better bulls of the

Holstein breed are in A.I. studs, Stauffer commented, citing sire summary data as proof for his statement.

Among the advantages Stauffer mentioned in using better bulls is that their offspring sell so much better in sales, should the owner decide to have a dispersal. The key is using bulls with a high predicted difference, the Holstein association staff member said.

Also a part of the evening's presentation was Ray Zimmerman, representing the Ephrata-based Raytec company which manufactures the Cowculator and Sowculator breeding charts. Zimmerman demonstrated use of the device to interested farmers and commented that the products are now being made available to distant parts of the world such as Australia and South America.

In discussing sire proofs and mating guides, Rush and Yoder suggested that dairymen look at the figures closely. A bull's proof may not be exactly what it appears to be on first glance, Yoder said. Some of the helpful information in sire data which is often overlooked includes: number of daughters, number of herds, number of records per daughter, herdmate performance, and number of states the daughters are dispersed in. All that could very well have a bearing on how a bull performs in an individual's herd, the dairy breeding specialists pointed out.

Throughout their discussions, Stauffer, Yoder and Rush used either visual aids or hand-outs to illustrate their points.

For those interested in attending similar meetings, Rush announced that such

events will take place at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center on Feb. 21 and again on March 7. The latter program will focus on heat detection.

The next meeting of the Ephrata Area Young and Adult Farmers is scheduled for next Tuesday evening. The topic will be Credit and Finance. On Feb. 17 the group will hold a session on farm shops and emergency power generators. On Feb. 24 members will gather at the high school to visit a variety of farms in Lancaster County.

U.S. grade standards revised for butter

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Revisions in the U.S. grade standards for butter announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture will eliminate the lowest butter grade - U.S. Grade C - leaving three butter grades, AA, A, and B.

Improvements in recent years in the quality of butter manufactured prompted USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to revise the butter standards. Another change eliminates the use of alternate grade terms, such as "U.S. 93 Score," in line with the AMS move toward uniform grade terminology.

Additional changes in the grade standards modify requirements for U.S. Grade AA, A, and B butter to more accurately reflect flavors found in butter produced today. Flavor is one of the important quality factors in

the U.S. Grade Standards for Butter. Changes also clarify and redefine flavor characteristics found in butter.

The AMS dairy division develops official grade standards for butter and other dairy products. These standards provide measures of quality and are based on attributes important to consumers. The U.S. butter grades are determined by flavor, body, color, and salt characteristics. Under the revised standards, butter failing to meet the requirements of U.S. Grade B will not be given a U.S. Grade. Dairy inspection and grading services are available on a voluntary basis, and are paid for by the user.

Copies of the revised standards are available on request from the Dairy Division, AMS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

New owner for Clauser firm

Benj. W. Clauser, owner of Benj. W. Clauser Farm Machinery Service at Wescosville, Pa. has announced his retirement effective January 1, 1977. His son, Ernest B. Clauser will assume responsibilities of the firm.

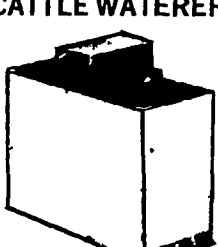
Established in 1937 by Clauser, and in continuous operation since that time, the Lehigh County business features Case parts, farm machinery service and sales and service of lawn and garden equipment.

The name of the firm will be changed to Ernest B. Clauser, Farm Machinery Service.


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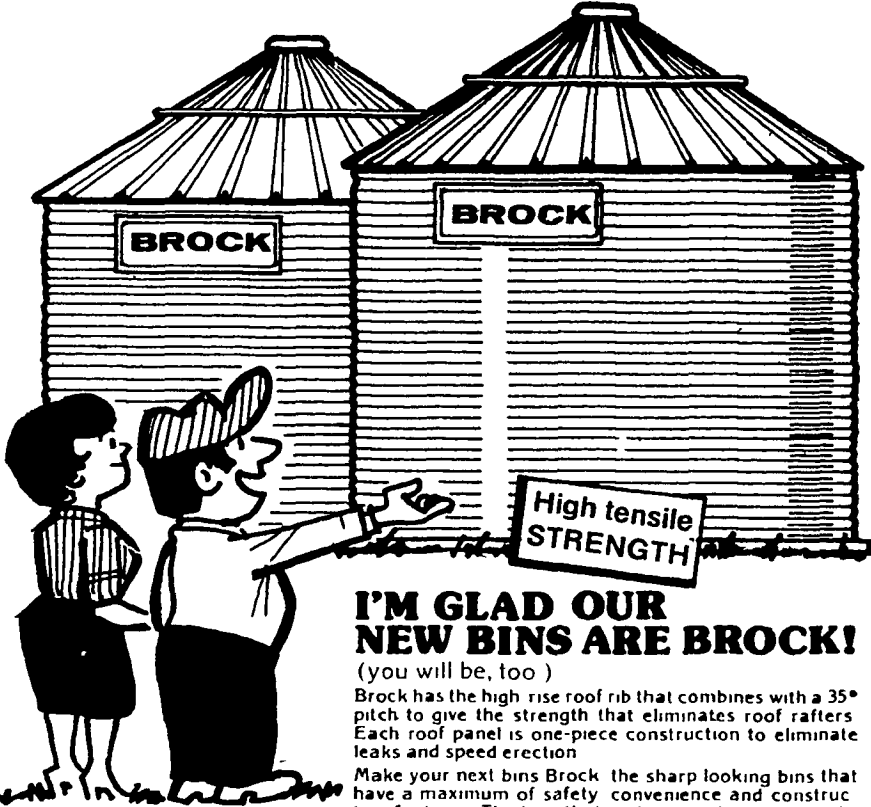
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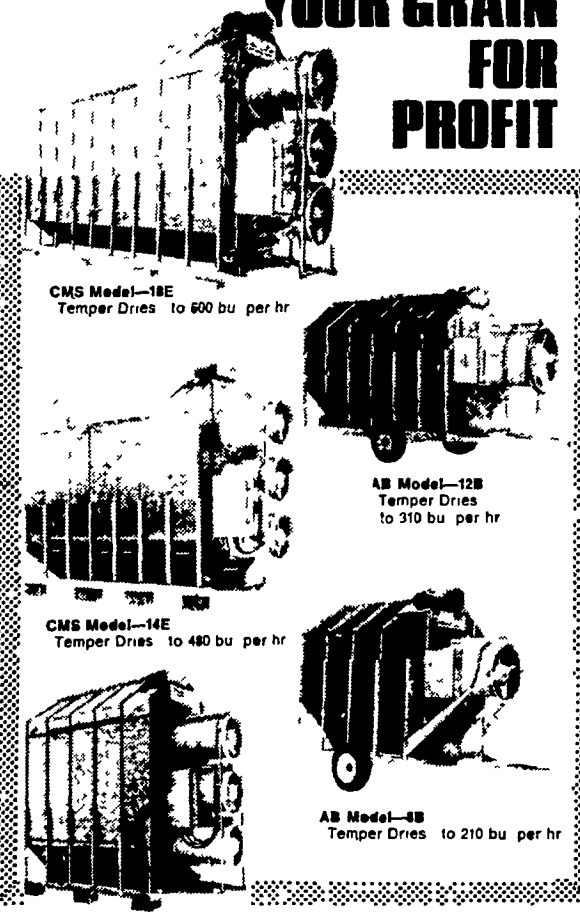


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