

Holstein Association reports record year

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — "Holstein Association programs and services experienced a year of tremendous growth and increased participation," reports Charles Larson, executive secretary of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America. "More than ever before" is the phrase that best describes 1977 Holstein activity in the number of animals permanently identified and evaluated for functional type, and in the number of pedigrees and herd consultations requested.

Larson said, "This record-breaking activity indicates that 1977 has been a

productive year for United States' Holsteins and the Holstein industry around the world."

Dairymen across the country stressed the importance of identification as a vital link in the genetic development of the breed. In 1977, more than 330,000 registration certificates for offspring of registered Holstein sires and dams were issued. This broke all previous records by more than 21,000 certificates. Dairymen identified 42,000 offspring from registered Holstein sires and non-registered dams in the Holstein Identification Program during 1977.

"The number of animals permanently identified in 1977 is an important milestone in HFA history," said Larson. As the number of cows and number of dairymen decline, the number of HFA identified animals keeps increasing. "The more animals identified, the more genetic information available and the faster the rate of genetic improvement of the breed," said Larson.

HFA produced a record number of pedigrees (the official document recording an animal's ancestry and performance.) A total of 82,000 pedigrees were produced for breeders;

that's 21,000 more than in 1976.

1977 participation in Dairy Herd Improvement Registry (DHIR), HFA's official production testing program, was the highest it's been in the last decade. And Holsteins enrolled in DHIR reached the highest production average in the history of the program - 16,861 pounds of milk and 617 pounds of fat.

In 1977, more than 290,000 registered animals and 11,200 non-registered animals were evaluated in HFA's herd classification program. This is another all-time high. Descriptive evaluation of an animal's

physical make-up gives the Holstein breeder a tool for improved breeding and selection.

1977 marked the first year that a complete package of field services was offered in every part of the country. Holstein program directors, strategically located throughout the country, offered Holstein dairymen on-the-farm assistance and consultation. The association's program directors provided professional management and breeding assistance to a record number of dairymen. Program directors helped more than 200 dairymen develop corrective breeding

programs from their classification worksheets. In addition, they performed genetic evaluation, management analysis and established corrective breeding programs in 217 herds.

Holstein-Friesian Services, Inc. (HFA's subsidiary) exported more than 6,000 Holsteins in 1977, 2,000 more than a year ago. Animals were exported to 17 countries. Hungary was HFS's largest customer. HFS, Inc. also had a 67% increase in semen shipped to foreign countries, in cooperation with major A.I.

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