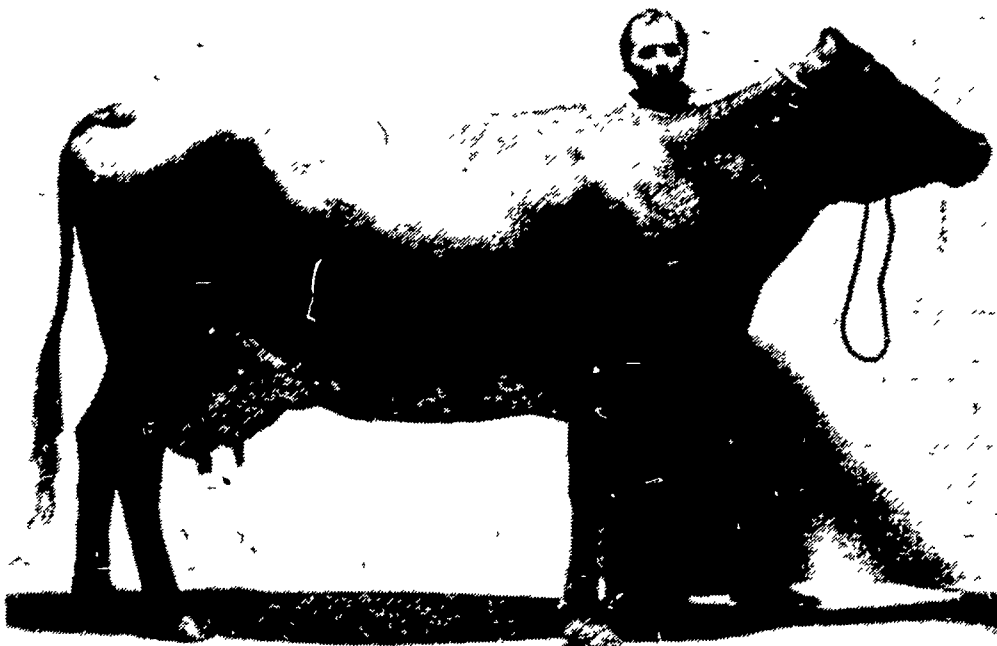


Australian semen credited for herd improvement

By DIETER KRIEG
NEWVILLE — James Young, a Cumberland County dairyman, started with Milking Shorthorn cattle. They didn't milk, so he replaced them with Holsteins.

Eight years ago his interest for Milking Shorthorns was rekindled when semen was imported from Australian cousins of the breed. Young acquired some of the genetic juice and once again made a switch in



James Young, Cumberland County dairyman, credits Australian semen for improvement of his herd type and production.

in feed expenditures. He claims a Holstein has to produce 18,000 pounds of milk to make him as much money as he gets from a Milking Shorthorn producing 15,000 pounds. Other reasons he prefers the smaller, rusty-colored cattle include the fact that they're "different," and they have a "nice disposition."

Illawarra semen, imported from Australia, can be purchased for prices ranging from \$12 to more than \$200, says Young, who does his own inseminating. He was among the first in the United States to try the semen in his herd and has used only Australian sires in his breeding programs for several years.

"Illawarras are a little taller and have more dairy character than domestic Milking Shorthorn cattle," Young continued to explain. "They're more upstanding, but then their feed intake is up some too," he went on.

He has noticed little difference in disposition and breeding efficiencies between the Illawarras and domestic Milking Shorthorns.

President of the Pennsylvania Milking Shorthorn Society, and a director of the Illawarra board, Young says he originally became interested in Milking Shorthorns because his father had them. He had purchased his first ones in 1940.

Registered Illawarras and Milking Shorthorns are the stock which Young advertises proudly on the sign which accompanies him to cattle shows. He is also active in promotional sales and related activities. "A Milking Shorthorn or Illawarra that produces 15,000 to 18,000 pounds of milk can command a price of several thousand dollars," the dairyman commented, adding that he usually purchases two or three head at the national sale every year. The highest price ever paid for a cow of the breed is \$10,000, he recollected.

Young, who isn't likely to switch breeds again in the near future, farms a total of 280 acres, 230 of which are owned.

breeds. Two years ago he held a dispersal sale and ever since then his herd has been composed of the roan cattle rather than black-and-whites.

The specific name of the kind of cattle which has Young excited is Illawarra.

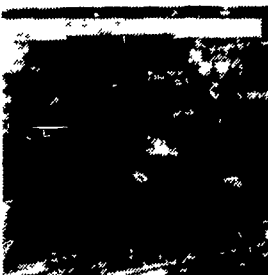
Illawarra cattle, according to Young, possess more dairy character than their American cousins and are much more productive. While his original herd of Milking Shorthorns wasn't good enough to keep, his new herd, says Young, has the productivity of Holsteins without the feed expenses. His most recent production average is 16,120 pounds of milk and 612 pounds of butterfat, which gives him first place in the state for the breed.

"Illawarra blood is what moved'em up," the Cumberland Countian remarked. "I had a 9000 pound herd average before."

Since he began using the imported Australian semen, Young's herd has become increasingly concentrated with Illawarra blood. He presently has just five cows in his herd which are of staigt domestic breeding lines. Illawarra are the Australian strain of Milking Shorthorn cattle.

Young's reasoning behind the switch from Holsteins to Milking Shorthorns stems largely from the difference

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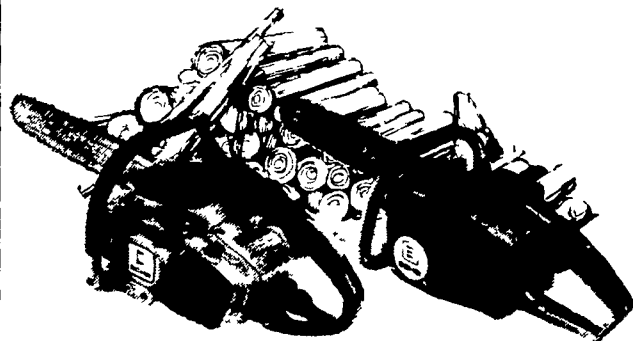


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