

Home-bred cows

(Continued from Page 96) proof standards had been applied to their pedigrees. The sires of both those distinguished bulls had minus proofs. Ivanhoe's sire, was -69 for milk and +16 for butterfat. Astronaut's sire was -1089 for milk and -51 for butterfat. Ivanhoe and Astronaut themselves, however, became phenomenally useful in their own right.

"We don't select an A.I. bull on the basis of predicted difference. We select according to what we feel will do the job for us," Carl said.

Whether it's a bull of their own, or one at a stud, choices are based on production, high butterfat test, and type, with special emphasis on feet, legs, and udders. Despite their own bulls' negative proofs, the Yoders claim their own sires are outproducing and outclassifying many of the high Predicted Difference bulls around the country.

While Yoder leans heavily towards the use of his own bulls, he is not at all opposed to the A.I. industry. He does, however, disagree with

raising systems. He agrees that handling a bull requires extra caution, and has kept that in mind in his own program.

Nearly all of the heifers at Yoder's "Rocky Side Farms" are bred naturally. He estimates that about 60 per cent of his cows are bred artificially. He selects his sires by the "eyeball method," screening not only performance records, but their appearance and their offspring's and dam's appearance as well.

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Although Jefferson Yoder had his life on the farm interrupted for about 10 years, he began farming with this plow when he was 16 years old.



Carl Yoder, like his father, believes in following a path which best suits their operation, rather than follow just any trend.

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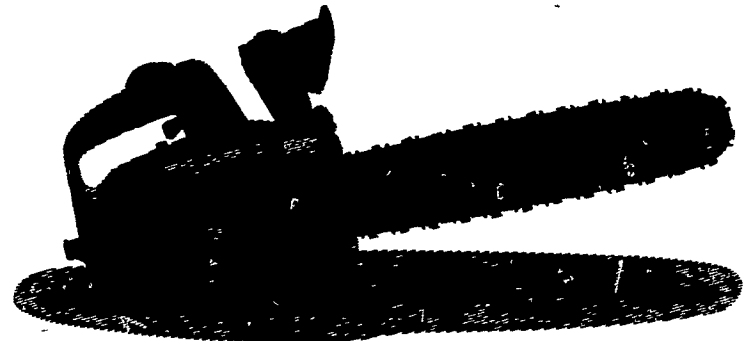
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