

Sire sampling reviewed by Holstein Association

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. - One year after the introduction of major improvements in its young sire sampling program, the Holstein Sire Development Service has results to crow about according to Manager Jim Copper.

The first 18 bulls offered in 1978 were sampled in an average of 29 herds.

Distribution of the semen was completed in less than four months after release.

Estimated Production Values of the bulls released increased an average of 22 percent over bulls sampled a year ago.

More information on the actual use of the semen reached the record files of HSDS.

Copper said not all of the program's achievements can be attributed to the modifications adopted by the board of directors last year, but "the changes we made have definitely proven their value in allowing us to be of better service to breeders."

A total of 35 Qualified Sires were offered for sampling during the year. Their dams' best records averaged 22,665 pounds of milk and 861 pounds of butterfat in 336 days. Average classification score of the dams was VG-88. Their sires averaged +1230 pounds PDM, +.91 PDT and +315 TPI. Estimated Production Values of the young bulls exceeded +1000.

"It is estimated that 86 per

cent of all the improvement in the U.S. Holstein breed will come as a result of sire selection," Copper explained. "The only way we can assure ourselves of identifying the truly superior bulls is to sample as many as possible," he said.

"We recognized a year ago that we had to offer breeders something of real value to encourage more sampling. We did. For the breeders on official test who purchase 10 units of semen on one or more Qualified Sires, we offered an attractive cash incentive program which encourages thorough follow-through for obtaining a reliable proof."

Because HSDS is operating a sampling program and is not in the commercial semen business,

the semen cost is rock bottom, averaging \$3 per dose. As an incentive the breeder receives a \$25 rebate if the semen is used within 6 months from the time it is received and sends a pregnancy report to HSDS within 9 months.

Registry and Holstein identification credits of \$3 are offered for each female offspring of a Qualified Sire permanently identified before six months of age.

Ten dollar cash incentives are offered to owners of the first 30 daughters summarized in a bull's production proof.

Finally, a sweepstakes bonus is offered to cooperating herd owners if the bull's first performance summary launches him into a career of commercial

semen production. Breeders who helped sample the bull get their choice of \$100 cash or 25 units of semen, whichever they prefer.

The incentive package has made a difference, claims Copper, who maintains a current report of each bull's progress. "Everyone recognizes they have a responsibility to give these young bulls a chance, but money in the pocket and the chance to have the first daughters of a very hot bull puts action into the responsibility."

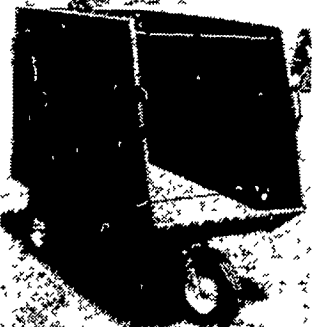
Some breeders, reluctant to use unproven bulls, regardless of their pedigree quality, are afraid they won't be able to merchandise the daughters. Others have found that situation to be a myth.

Qualified Sire daughters consigned last year to the New England Sale averaged \$3667, with one fancy heifer bringing \$5000.

Semen from a new group of Qualified Sires is being distributed to breeders in March by Association program directors. Pedigree and picture portfolios are available free of charge on each of the young bulls from program directors and the HSDS office.

With current interest in the program as the key indicator, Jim Copper expects to release new bulls six different times during 1979. "I think we can fully and equitably sample 45 young sires this year," Copper predicted, "and still push our quality up a few more notches."

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Free trees given for greener America

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb. - The National Arbor Day Foundation is offering free trees as part of its 1979 campaign to encourage tree planting.

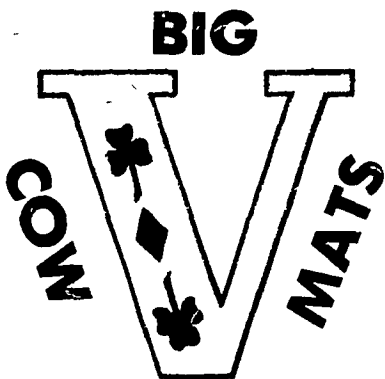
The Arbor Day Foundation, a nonprofit organization, is working to improve the quality of life in communities throughout the country by encouraging tree planting. The Foundation will give four trees to new members contributing \$15 or more. Shade, fruit, and nut trees will be from 3 to 6 feet tall, and evergreens will be 6

inches to 1 foot tall. All trees will be ready for planting and will be sent postage paid.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive four free trees, a contribution of \$15 or more should be sent to the National Arbor Day Foundation, Arbor Lodge 100, Nebraska City, Neb. 68410. The donation should be sent along with a choice of any four of the following trees. Any combination or as many of one variety may be specified.

Red Maple, Silver Maple, Sugar Maple, White Dogwood, American Redbud, White Birch, Tulip Tree, Weeping Willow, Red Delicious Apple, Yellow Delicious Apple, Stayman Winesap Apple, Elberta

Peach, J. H. Hale Peach, Belle of Georgia Peach, Early Golden Apricot, Burbank Plum, Colorado Blue Spruce, Norway Spruce, White Pine, Black Walnut.



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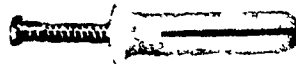


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