

Lancaster cow donor

First certified embryo exported

LANCASTER -- The Holstein Association has issued what is likely to be the first of many certificates identifying an embryo for export. The certificate documents the identity of a fertilized ovum taken from Mid-Hill-Acres Famous D Jo, the donor dam, who was inseminated with semen from Northcroft Admiral Citation. The donor dam is owned by M. Robert Young of Lancaster.

This export certificate, along with the blood types of the donor dam and the service sire, was provided by the Association so that the purchaser of the embryo, an Italian dairyman, could

apply for registry of the resulting offspring in his own country.

What might motivate a foreign dairyman to purchase an embryo rather than an already-born animal? According to Richard E. Nelson, special assistant to the executive secretary of the Holstein Association, one advantage offered by embryo export is lower cost. Both the initial purchase cost and transportation expense are lower for an embryo than for an actual animal.

On the other hand, as Nelson points out, the embryo purchaser runs some risk, in that the recipient female may not become

pregnant as a result of the embryo transfer.

Nelson describes the export of an unfrozen embryo as a "carefully coordinated effort." Perhaps the greatest challenge is to time the transfer so that the recipient is in the stage of ovulation in which she would normally conceive. This, in turn, determines when the embryo should be taken from the donor dam, and, since the embryo must be about seven days old upon removal, determines the time of insemination of the donor dam as well. When transported, the embryo is kept at body temperature

through one of several possible means.

"The cost of maintaining recipient herds, with cows at the proper stages of ovulation, has been the greatest deterrent to the common use of embryo transfer," Richard Nelson explains. "If there is a breakthrough that improves the conception rate for frozen embryos, a market will develop for frozen embryos both domestically and overseas. Successful use of frozen embryos would eliminate the need for special recipient herds, and make embryo transfer easier and less costly," Nelson adds. The current pregnancy rate from frozen

embryo transfers is only about 20 per cent.

Nelson predicts that "if a 60 per cent rate of conception could be achieved, frozen embryo transfer would become almost as common as artificial insemination. Embryos from the better

caliber cows would be available to more people, and those better cows would also go up in value."

Nelson expects the Holstein Association to be called upon to issue many more certificates that identify embryos for export.

Kutztown FFA wins contest

KUTZTOWN -- The Berks County FFA Parliamentary Procedure Contest was held on April 3, at the Kutztown Area High School Vo-Ag Department. Three teams competed, with Kutztown placing first, Twin Valley second, and Conrad Weiser third.

The eight member teams must conduct an orderly meeting within twenty-five minutes, demonstrating a minimum of six parliamentary abilities. Such abilities are amendments, referring matters to committees, laying matters on the table, etc. Two new items of business are given to the teams by the three judges and must be handled

properly. Every team has a few members as quizzers, who must be recognized a minimum of three times by the team on the floor. The quizzers are to catch mistakes made by the team and point them out to score points for their team.

The two top teams will be competing in the Berks, Lebanon, Schuylkill contest on April 23, at the Berks County Agricultural Center at Leesport.



Now Is The Time

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bloating. Herds of milking cows should be grazed only after the milking period; should be off the area at least four hours before the next milking time.

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Many farmers get in too big a hurry when good weather arrives. As a result, they operate their tractors and other machinery at too high a speed. This presents safety hazards and is the

cause of too many accidents. Grain drills and corn planters are designed for rather accurate planting, if operated at a normal rate of speed. Many times they are moved too rapidly and then the planting job is disappointing. We urge farmers to take the time to properly prepare and adjust their machinery and then drive at a speed that will get proper performance. With many pieces of farm machinery this speed is given on the manufacturer's directions. Take time to be safe and to be satisfied.

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