

Bradford Holstein Association discusses embryo transfer

BY JANE BRESEE

ULSTER—One hundred farm people heard about the subject of Embryo Transfers at the annual dinner meeting at the Bradford County Holstein Association held last Friday at the Methodist Church in Ulster.

The speaker, Dr. Al McCauley, worked in a general veterinarian practice in the Canton area of Bradford County, leaving a few years ago to attend Cornell University where he trained in the field of embryo transfer. Presently he is employed at Via Pax, Inc. U.S.A.

Dr. McCauley narrated a

slide presentation of his work telling that formerly it was considered a great accomplishment to transfer 11 embryos a month, but 249 transfers were done in July and August this year.

A donor cow is treated with injections of a hormone to stimulate her to "super ovulate", meaning that she produces sometimes 30 or more egg follicles at one time.

These are fertilized at a precise time, the schedule revolving around the cow's heat period.

Seven days after fertilization the embryos are flushed out and checked for impregnation. One cow, he

related, owned formerly by George Page of Bradford County, gave 32 eggs in a flush, 16 of which were transferred resulting in 11 pregnancies.

The host cow is usually a heifer weighing 750 to 800 pounds, sound, and in perfect synchronization with the reproductive cycle of the donor cow.

The recipient part of the embryo transfer is the most difficult. Through a small incision in the side of the cow, the embryo is injected into the horn of the uterus.

In 60 days the recipient cow is checked for pregnancy. The pregnancy

rate for embryo transfers is 65 to 70 percent.

Dr. McCauley stated that embryo transfers will do wonders to upgrade a herd, but are very expensive, costing at least \$1900 for each transfer.

It takes a tremendous amount of time, manpower, and perservance to make it successful, he concluded.

John Macafee, president of the association, opened the business meeting by introducing the guests, many of whom were veterinarians.

Robert Morris, representative of the state Holstein Association, spoke briefly stating that there are



John Macafee, left, president of the Bradford County Holstein Association, and Dr. Al McCauley of Via Pax, Inc. U.S.A. enjoy the company of Miss Penny Allen, Bradford County Dairy Princess, at the annual meeting of the county Holstein Association.

Maryland Angus sale averages

\$807 on heifers

FREDERICK, Md. — The Maryland Angus Fall Heiferama Show and Sale averaged \$807 on 37 females and \$488 on eight steer calves.

Twenty-five of the females were 1979 calves.

Topping the heifers at \$2,500 was the Champion of the show, Edlyns Marie Lassie 849, an April 1978 daughter of Northern Prospector 14 out of a daughter of Fariton of Wye, owned by Doug Velisek, Woodbine, Md. She sold to Rishel's Edlyn Farm, Glen Rock, Pa.

This heifer has been a champion at several other shows during 1979.

Selling for second high

money was a June 1978 class winner, Edlyns Ellen Erica 8117, owned by Peter Velisek, Woodbine Md., She sold to Edward E. Rishel, Jr., McCordsville, Ind. for \$2,200 and is a daughter of Edlyns Dynamo 4E1 and out of a dam by Camilla Eston 160D.

The Reserve Champion Heifer, Edlyns Miss Festress 81, showed by Dough Mullinix, La Plata, Md., sold for \$1,650 to Rebecca and Richard Rishel, Glen Rock, Pa. She also is by Edlyns Dynamo 4E1 and out of a daughter of Northern Prospector 14.

At \$1,200 was an August 1978 daughter of Sayre Patriot that sold to Dick Whaley, Queenstown, Md. She was consigned by Rishel's Edlyn Farm, Glen Rock, Pa., and was out of a daughter of Pacesetter.

The youngest heifer in the sale and a class winner, was an April 1979 grand daughter of Ankonian Dynamo that sold for \$1,175 to Richard Gregg, Gaithersburg, Md. She was consigned by Echol Valley Farm, Monkton, Md.

Also over the thousand dollar mark was a daughter of H F Marathon consigned

by Stonyonesome Farm, Stahlstown, Pa., and selling to Mark Moxley, W. Friendship, Md., for \$1,050. The champion pen of three heifers was consigned by Devereux-Soleil Farms, Inc., Downingtown, Pa.

Top selling steer calf was the champion by consensus of opinion and he sold to Christine Curtis, Derwood, Md. for \$700. McGinnis Angus Farm, White Hall, Md. was the consignor.

Second high selling steer went to Steven Sullivan, Cooksville, Md., a consignment from Gonaway Farm, Woodbine, Md., who had the champion steer in last year's sale that went on to be Reserve Champion Angus at the Eastern National Livestock Show.

Highlight of the sale was the selling of the lot 10 heifer, sired by Hedgerows Commander 5192, sire of the above mentioned steers. She was owned by Warren and Barbara Streaker, for sale to benefit the Maryland Junior Angus Assoc.

She sold to Susan Moxley, W. Friendship, Md. for \$825. Then Garrett Billmire, Jr. of Echo Valley Farm, pur-

chased a consignment from Sam Riggs, Olney, Md., for \$460 and donated her for resale.

She sold the second time to Howard's Forest Farm, Bel Air, Md. for \$500 netting the Maryland Juniors a tidy sum.

Dr. Jack Shanks, Mocksville, N.C. was judge and Mike Jones cried the sale.

5500 members in Pennsylvania, the largest state membership in the nation.

Russell Jones, president of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association, and a member of the Bradford County chapter, was also recognized.

Three directors were elected for a term of 3 years: James Howard, Lynn Miller, and Ben Jackson. Other directors serving on the 9 member board are John Macafee, president, Leigh Sturdevant, secretary, Richard Kingsley,

treasurer, George Page, Robert Whipple, and William Brown.

In addition to hosting the District Judging School this year, some of the activities sponsored by the group are in-county and out-of-county Holstein tours, and a summer picnic. Young farmers are encouraged to be active in the Junior Holstein Club and 4-H.

Membership of the Bradford County group is 284, third in the state, next to Lancaster and Franklin counties.

have a nice weekend...

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