

# Typey heifers are top crop on Franklin County dairy farm



The Raymond Helman barn is full of classey looking two year olds. Helmans got their start with a Canadian bull, and will have seven animals from their herd at Farm Show.

CHAMBERSBURG — A remarkable bargain bull has given a Chambersburg dairy family an outstanding herd of Registered Holsteins, and a growing pile of awards from shows in Franklin County and in Harrisburg.

Raymond Helman had been a Holstein breeder for over a quarter of a century in 1970, when he made a special trip to Canada to attend a dairy sale. A local cattle dealer had told him there would be some special animals going under the auctioneer's gavel, and Helman and his wife, Mary, wanted to see for themselves.

They came back with a young bull named C. Kenola Rocky, a son of the legendary Seiling Rockman.

Seiling Rockman is to Canada what Ivanhoe is to the U.S., Helman said, and any son of Seiling Rockman

seemed a good bet for the herd in Chambersburg.

C. Kenola Rocky - "Rocky" for short - was bought for \$700, and earned both his purchase price and his keep for nearly a decade before a broken leg did him in a year ago New Year's Eve.

Helman and his three sons Robert, Stanley and Wayne, talked about Rocky and about dairying one recent morning in their dining room while Mrs. Helman bustled about the kitchen, pausing to throw out names, dates and figures her menfolk were slow in remembering.

The Helmans farm 477 acres of Franklin County ground, 147 acres of which is the home farm. They grow mostly alfalfa and corn, with some oats, barley and clover-timothy hay. About 200 animals live on the farm, with a milking herd of some 85 head.

Although artificial insemination is used in the Helman's breeding program, Rocky was a busy fellow when he was on the farm, and his offspring are the backbone of the herd.

His genes added about 3000 pounds to the herd's annual average, Helman figures, and he left a legacy of very "typey" daughters.

The herd includes two excellent and 27 very good animals as determined by the Holstein breed

association. Better than half the excellent and very good animals are Rocky's offspring.

A high percentage of two-year-olds keeps the Helman herd average at around 14,110 pounds per cow.

One of their principal crops, it seems, is good-looking, high producing young cows.

They don't sell all of their top animals, but they do pick a few of the best every time they send a load to the auction.

Last year they sold a first calf heifer — an Ivanhoe Star daughter — that earned an 85 classification the first time she was seen by the Holstein classifier.

Not a bad cow to keep in the herd, Helman pointed out, but they got a very good price for her.

"The milk money keeps the operation going, but the cow sales account for a big chunk of our profits," he said.

And who can argue with the logic of an operation that's providing a living for Helman and his wife, two married sons with families and a third son working full-time on the farm?

Even with that philosophy, Helman said they are seriously trying to build cow families with much stronger pedigrees. Increased

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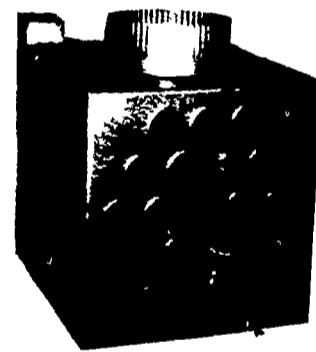
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