

## Premature calf beats odds, survives, grows

ANNVILLE — It's rough to start life as a calf when you come from your mother weighing only 20 pounds.

Most runts don't stand a chance without some outside help. And a 20 pound calf is a runt in anyone's book.

On December 20, 1979 Lynnacres Astro Faith gave birth to a heifer calf that barely tipped the scales at 20 pounds. Faith was bred to Will-Tri-Frans Legacy, a bull with a PD of 1000 pounds.

In most cases the veterinarian would simply shake his head and go on down the line to the next maternity stall to do his best for a calf which stood half a chance of survival.

The Richard Batz family knew the story.

This dairying family from R 2 Anville milks 30 cows and tends 122 acres of cropland.

Richard Batz said he never likes to lose any calf — he tries to save them all. It's important to save calves when you've been farming



Holly, born December 20, now is old enough to stand on her own. It wasn't always so for the prematurely born calf.

on your own for just about a year.

Plus it was Christmas time. And losing such a pitiful little calf was neither a good way to end a decade nor a good way to begin one.

The Batz's children, Tammy and Michael, sort of took to the little runt. It wouldn't do to let it die.

So, Richard Batz and his

wife put the calf into a calf hutch and placed a heat lamp over her.

They fed her with a baby bottle because she was unable to drink from a normal calf nurser.

At first the tiny calf would drink only eight ounces or less at a feeding. It hardly seemed worth the trouble for the first feeding or two. At that rate, the calf was not taking enough nutrients to survive.

But the Batz family persisted. They started her out on colostrum from the cow.

Each day the heifer would drink a bit more. As the days went on she began to demand four or five eight-ounce bottles at each feeding.

Young Tammy and Michael enjoyed feeding and taking care of the calf. They named her Holly. Somehow, the tiny calf seemed more



Tammy Batz took her turns bottle feeding a heifer calf which was not strong enough to nurse from the mother.

their size and they identified with her.

For two weeks, Holly survived on colostrum from her dam.

Finally, just after New Year's day, the calf began to take food out of a bucket.

While Holly was nowhere near as big as a normal calf, she was showing signs of improvement.

Holly, who weighed 61 pounds on Tuesday, still is about 20 pounds lighter than a normal heifer calf.

But her activity has picked up. As a three week old she is on her own and improving every day.

Richard Batz said he hopes Holly will make it as a replacement heifer for the family herd.

The little heifer has made it this far. Batz has

What else could a Holstein ask: papers; a spot in the milking string; and someday, perhaps, the place of honor next to the barn door. — CH

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1,000	48"	7	390
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4,000	64"	7	980
10,000	96"	3/4"	2,635
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## Sale reports

Brooks End and Par Kay Farms, Beavertown, held their annual Winter Sale January 11, 1980.

238 head sold for \$304 average to total \$72,325. 136 head of purebred boars and gilts averaged \$386.

The top-selling animal was a Yorkshire Bred Gilt Lot 41 RTB8 Greenback 159-1 for \$1,550, going to R. L. Gill and Sons Gum Spring, Va. The top-selling Yorkshire Boar was Lot 119 purchased by Howard Moye, Farmville, N.C. for \$1000.

The top-selling Landrace Bred Gilt was Lot 70 purchased by Mitch Rogers, Mayville, N.Y. for \$650. The top-selling Landrace Open Gilts were Lot 153 and 151 both gilts were purchased by Howard Moye, Farmville, N.C. for \$270. The top-selling

Landrace Boar was Lot 129 purchased by Howard Moye, Farmville, N.C. for \$700.

The 40 head of Yorkshire Bred Gilts averaged \$407; 20 head of Yorkshire Boars averaged \$466; 49 head of Landrace Bred Gilts averaged \$352; 17 head of Landrace Boars averaged \$419; 10 head of Landrace Open Gilts averaged \$248; 102 Commercial Open Gilts averaged \$195.

This sale offering sold into eight different states. Most of this sale offering was of our Scotland Importation Bloodline Heritage.

The next sale offering of Brooks End and Par Kay Farms will be on March 7, 1980 with something new and different and more Scotch Bloodlines.

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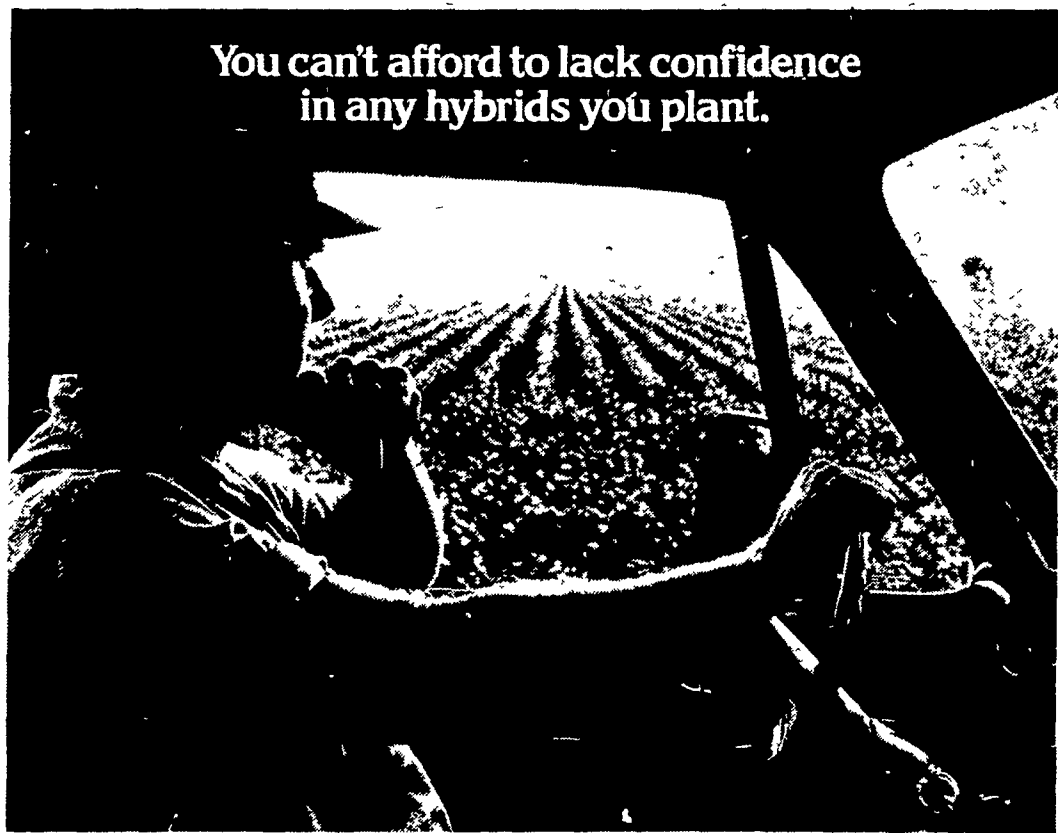


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