

When is next litter of calves due?

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN SCHOENECK — She's a big animal, but no bigger than some of her neighbors.

She has her own box pen to move around in at will. But the cows next to her and across the aisle have the same accommodations.

Above the pen is a sign listing her impressive pedigree and production statistics. But the names and information on the signs of adjacent pens would be just as easily recognized by Holstein breeders.

After commanding a record price tag of \$116,000 at auction last week, Lime-Hollow Elevation Jessie has settled in among the other black and white breeding stock on the Galen Crouse farm, nestled on the eastern edge of the rural village of Schoeneck, Lancaster County.

"We won't be treating her any different than any of the other cows," Crouse said.

"She's fed the same ration and goes right along with the other cows up to the bunk at the other barn to eat."

But in less than two weeks, interest and concern in Jessie will pick up significantly.

"She will be calving on April 11," Crouse said.

"We'll be keeping a good eye on her. You can be sure we don't want to take any risks with one of her calves."

This interest and concern can be translated into terms of tens of thousands of dollars or even more.

If Jessie has a daughter, she could become numbered among the seventh generation classified as excellent in production. That has been achieved only one other time in the history of the Holstein breed.

An earlier daughter of Jessie previously has sold for \$31,000 in Nevada.

Already, interest in a bull from Jessie has been expressed from overseas.

Then in another two months, Jessie will begin to be put to the test to determine the scope of the possible eventual return on the record investment made in her.

"We could do our first super on her the beginning of June," Crouse said.

The Holstein breeder is referring to the super ovulation process in which the production of multiple eggs is induced in a single cow, fertilized by artificial insemination and then flushed for transplanting into recipient grade heifers.

(For a complete explanation of the process, see the story on page D8.)

In the Crouse barn, Jessie is stalled next to another Holstein that is a veteran of the super ovulation process.

Her record so far gives an indication of the possibilities that may lie ahead for the newcomer.

Kathy (Windy Mont Matt Kathy) will have 36 offspring by the time she's seven years old," Crouse explained.

Eight offspring are due in May from a super ovulation performed on Kathy in August. An additional 11 are scheduled to be born to recipient heifers in July from a second super done last October.

From each of the super ovulations, 16 fertilized eggs were transferred to recipient heifers. While the pregnancy

rate was 50 percent from the first super, it increased to 68 percent from the second.

Combined with two calves already born from single transplants, Kathy's offspring for this year alone will total 21.

Crouse admitted that Kathy has produced an exceptionally large number of fertilized eggs in the two supers and flushes. The average number of good eggs from a flush ranges from about three to six, he explained.

But if any of this reproductive capacity rubs off on Jessie in the neighboring pen, the possible magnitude of the financial return can be left to the imagination.

The super ovulation process already has brought about quite a few changes in dairy cattle breeding.

One example is the terminology used, and not just the technical jargon, too.

When Crouse checks his little pocket notebook for

calving dates, he talks about a "litter of eight" due in May and a "litter of 11" scheduled for July.

And blood tests have become common place.

In a super ovulation, semen from two or even three bulls can be used.

"First, this requires that we check the blood types of the bulls," Crouse said.

"We can't be using two bulls with the same blood type at the same time. Then after the calves are born, we must wait until we get the results of blood tests back to determine who is the sire."

But Crouse adds a word of caution.

"We've been in the program for two years," he said, "and Jessie will be our sixth cow. The thing to remember is that all cows are different and all eggs won't fertilize and result in good pregnancies. But as far as we're concerned we've had real good success so far."



Lime-Hollow Elevation Jessie joins breeding stock on Galen Crouse farm at Schoeneck.

Franklin 4-H Dairy Club holds awards banquet

CHAMBERSBURG — Approximately 160 4-H dairy club members, family and friends gathered for the annual Franklin County 4-H Dairy Club's Covered Dish Supper and Reorganization Meeting last Saturday at the Franklin County Vo-Tech School in Chambersburg.

Philip Wagner, county dairy agent, along with Robert Eckstine presented 4-H bulletin boards and scrapbooks to outstanding junior and senior 4-H dairy club members. These awards were based on 1979 4-H project books.

Winning awards from the six dairy clubs in Franklin County were from Western Dairy, juniors — Thomas Eckstine and Steve Eckstine, seniors — Maryanne Johnson and Victoria Zimmerman; Northern dairy, juniors — Rodney Meyers and Beverly Meyers, seniors — Allan Mummert and Gary Martin, Eastern Dairy, juniors — Kelly Cordell and John Mummert, seniors — Jesse Reichard and Dave Mummert; Greencastle-Antrim, juniors — Lori Harshman and Timothy Deshong, seniors — Alan Meyers and Carolyn Meyers, Quincy-Washington Dairy, juniors — Douglas Layman and Susan

Wilhide, seniors — Jeffrey Benedict and Patricia Layman; and Hamilton-St. Thomas Dairy, juniors Nicholas Myers and Nancy Myers.

The awards these 4-H dairy club members received were sponsored by the Franklin County 4-H Dairy Council.

Jesse Reichard and Kelly Cordell received pins for their achievements as county winners in the 1979 National 4-H Awards Program (blue forms) in the dairy category. This award is sponsored by the Insurance Company of North America.

Carol Mummert received an award from the Eastern Milk Producers' Cooperative for being the outstanding first-year 4-H dairy club member.

The 1980 Franklin County 4-H Dairy Bowl winners were presented rosettes. Receiving blue rosettes was first place senior team Eastern Dairy Club Team members were Cindy Donough, Kelly Cordell and Jesse Reichard. First place junior team was Greencastle-Antrim Dairy. Team members were Lori Harshman, Ronnie Harshman and Lori Gsell.

Receiving red rosettes was



The senior and junior first place teams in the Franklin County 4-H Dairy Bowl Contest. Front from left: Greencastle-Antrim Dairy Club members, Lori Harshman, Ronnie Harshman, and Lori Gsell - junior team winners. Back from left: senior team winners - Eastern Dairy members, Jesse Reichard, Kelly Cordell and Cindy Donough.

second place senior team Greencastle-Antrim Dairy. Team members were Keith Grove, Alan Meyers and Douglas Martin. Second place junior team receiving rosettes was Northern Dairy Team members were Beverly Meyers, Rodney Meyers and Dale Mummert.

Robert Eckstine reorganized the 4-H Dairy Club leaders. Club leaders are Eastern Dairy- Edgar Reichard and Dennis Crider; Greencastle-Antrim Dairy- Richard Harshman, Richard Crider and Garry Harshman; Hamilton-St. Thomas Dairy- Mrs. Larry Hartman, Northern Dairy- Kenneth Mummert, Robert Helman, Steve Kendig and John Moore, Western Dairy- John Stoner and Nina and James Burdette, Quincy-Washington Dairy- Mark Gayman and Grant Gayman.

During the business meeting 1980 4-H Dairy Council officers were elected. They are Kenneth Meyers, vice-president, Mrs. J. Robert Meyers Jr., secretary, Amos Egolf,

treasurer; and Rhoda Brake, news reporter.

The 1980 4-H Dairy Council President is Ted Small. Small served as vice-president in 1979.

Roy Cordell gave a Calf Sale Committee report. He announced that the annual calf sale is scheduled for April 3 at the Franklin County Fairgrounds, Chambersburg.

Sixteen calves are to be

sold to 4-H members at this sale.

George Cashell gave a Franklin County Fair report. Cashell reported that the fair parking problems are being worked out and that the fair expansion is still on the go.

Eckstine urged members to attend the district dairy show meeting since Franklin County has the largest district show participation.

Each participating club presented a skit.



Alan Meyers tries to put the halter on his 4-H project calf (Ronnie Harshman) during a club skit. Both 4-H'ers are members of the Greencastle-Antrim Dairy Club in Franklin County.

