

Lancaster County runs classification meetings

RONKS — A pair of barn meetings on Holstein classification were held Tuesday at Ronks and in Denver.

The Ronks meeting was held in the evening at Neff Brothers Farm, R2 Ronks; the Vern-Lee Holstein operation of Russel L. Klone, R 2 Denver sponsored the afternoon meeting.

The meetings were conducted by Clarence Stauffer, local representative; and Bentz Rhoads, Jr., of Virginia, a consultant with the Holstein-Friesian Association of America.

The meetings featured a slide presentation and gave farmers the opportunity to discuss a particular milker in the dairy herd with regards to her type and overall looks.

The speakers emphasized the need to breed cattle for type.

They said sound, functional type will result in more milk because good feet, legs, udders and udder attachment will keep a high producing cow healthy.

They recommended farmers look for cows which were strong enough to maintain high milk production with a low level of care.

Farmers should plan a

breeding program around their cattle's type. First, a farmer should determine the percentage of his income which comes from milk sales and the percentage which comes from the sale of breeding stock.

Then the farmer should ask what percentage of his breeding stock is sold because of its high production potential and how much is sold because it exhibits good Holstein type.

Many problems with low production are due solely to pool type, the consultants said.

They pointed out that an uncomfortable cow will not do as well as a cow who is standing on good feet and legs.

There are several factors to consider before breeding for a specific genetic factor in a herd. First, the farmer should make sure the gene will contribute to the overall production of his herd.

The genetic factor must be measurable so the farmer has some idea of his chances for success. It must be inheritable by the young stock so it can be passed on from the parents. Milk production, for example has a 20 percent heritability factor.

Farmers in this area who

milk in the barn should be aware of a cow's stature. A taller cow, with about 57 inches clearance is considered a Code 1 cow in the classification. Foreudder is one important trait which

can be passed along quickly. But more important, the Holstein men said, is the rear udder and udder attachment factor. Both are readily passed along.

How should a farmer who

is interested in upgrading a herd go about it?

Four steps will bring a farmer along quickly, they noted. First, the farmer should identify the major problems in the herd.

Next, he should make a strategy decision in conjunction with his AI stud and stick to it. The strategy should cover at least one year's breeding schedule so

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A. Bentz Rhoads, Jr., a consultant for the Holstein-Friesian Association, told farmers rear udders and udder attachment are two of the most important traits to breed into a herd. He spoke at a pair of barn meetings in Lancaster County this week.

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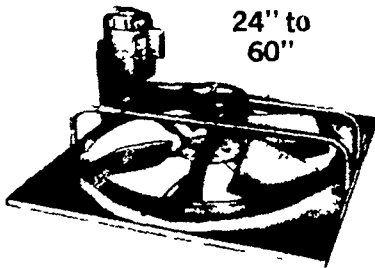
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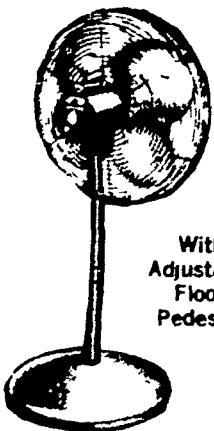
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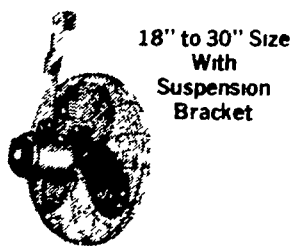
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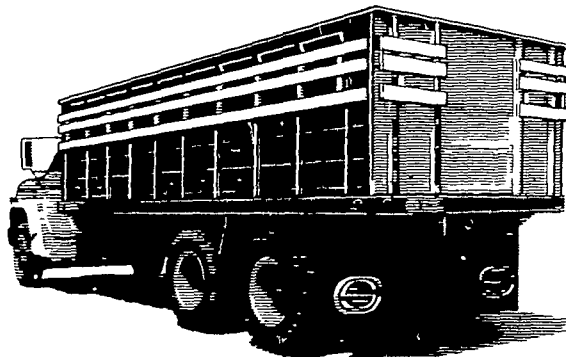
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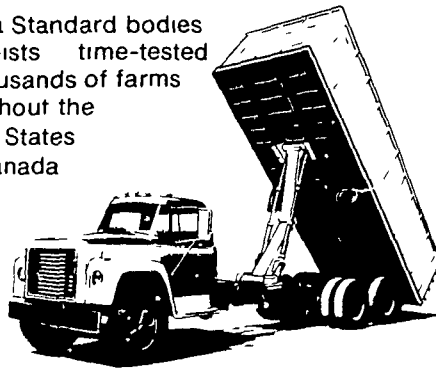
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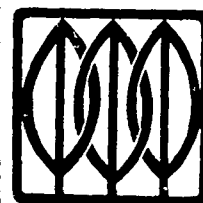
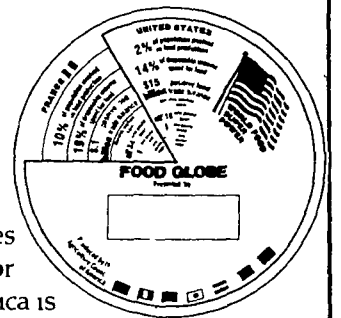
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