

Oakenbound Holsteins find gold mine in black and whites

BY SHEILA MILLER

RICHLAND — It was like finding a gold mine in a coal dump when Richard Troutman and his sons found the Holstein heifer at a consignment sale in Schuylkill County in 1977. The yearling heifer was to be the first of a family of the black and whites to bring fortune to the Troutman partnership, Oakenbound Holsteins located near Richland.

"After we bought the heifer, we liked her so much we decided to go after the family," said Richard in recounting a success story filled with hopes and misfortune.

When they went to the heifer's former owner and inquired about her dam, Troutmans learned the cow was not on Carl Snyder's list of favorites. She had failed to become pregnant for the dairy farmer, so it was either sell her or make hamburgers out of her.

As Nelson described it, when he studied the cow's pedigree his only concern was "Can she walk?"

What was so exciting about a cow who was one step off the kill floor — mother of a heifer who had proven to be a top milker on the Oakenbound string?

Bloodlines — the dam, Carl-A Bootmaker Fobes, was sired by Paclamar Bootmaker out of a Whirlhill Kingpin dam. Add to the pedigree the fact the third dam was an Osbornedale Ivanhoe daughter and you come up with a combination that's dynamite.

The heifer, Carl-A Chief Faith, had a pedigree equally worth its weight in gold. Her sire was the outstanding Pawnee Farm Arlinda Chief — another heavyweight in the Holstein stud world.

According to a spokesman for a leading bull stud, the bloodlines on Faith and her dam Fobes were the building blocks to a "continental pedigree."

Production records were the proof of the pudding as far as the Troutmans' faith in Faith was concerned.

After her first calf, a Whittier-Farms Apollo



Richard Troutman, right, and his sons Nelson, center, and Richard, Jr. have high hopes for these daughters of Fobes. Both Farah, left, and Faith have contributed to the Oakenbound Holsteins

embryo transfer program. With production records in the 20,000 pound range, these high-indexing cows will serve as foundation dams in a breeding program that can boast a continental pedigree.

Rocket son, Faith made a 365 day record of 22,869 pounds

milk, and 957 pounds fat with a 42 percent test. Her 305 day record as a two-year-old was 20,152 pounds milk, and 823 pounds fat with a 41 percent test. She indexed 11.42 with a predicted fat difference of +51 pounds.

Faith's production record didn't fizzle out after her second Apollo Rocket calf, a heifer. Her record at three years and eight months of age stands at 26,981 pounds of milk with 1340 pounds fat for a 50 percent test over the 338 day record.

After Faith's probationary first year and the purchase of Fobes, the Troutmans decided to go for one more family member. That same year they purchased Faith's half sister Carl-A Jet Stream Farah — a yearling daughter of Arlinda Jet Stream.

In her first lactation, Farah also milked in the 20,000 pound range. Her 305 day record was 20,295 pounds milk, 694 pounds fat, with a 34 percent test. For the year, Farah let down 23,293 pounds milk with 810 pounds fat with a 35 percent test. She indexed 15.61 with a

predicted butterfat difference of +33 pounds.

Faith's and Farah's dam, Fobes, also was no disappointment for Oakenbound Holsteins. According to father Richard, Fobes put it all together — milk, test and type.

With these three powerhouses in their starting lineup, Troutmans decided to take advantage of their pedigrees and produce a string of top-notch calves.

"We began embryo transferring soon after we bought Farah and Fobes — around July, 1978," said Nelson. "We hired Dr. William Pettit, Jr. of Huff 'N Puff Embryo Transfer out of Juliustown, N.J. to help us get started. We chose him because the transfers could be done at the farm with our own heifers receiving the eggs."

Nelson recalled the first time they tried ET, they flushed 10 eggs from Fobes. Out of those 10 eggs, four were "good" and those were surgically implanted successfully.

The next May we had four Pawnee Farm Arlinda

Chief calves — two heifers and two bulls out of Fobes," he said.

The second time Fobes was superovulated, she flushed six fertile eggs seven days after she was bred to S-W-D Valiant and Ack-Lee Chief Moneymaker.

As Nelson, who does his own inseminating, explained, when he decided to select two sires to artificially breed to Fobes, these two bulls had to be approved by the Holstein Association in Brattleboro, Vermont. (The two bulls' bloodtypes had to differ so the calves' sires could be determined after birth.)

Fobes gave birth to six calves this past August, and last week the Troutmans said they found out the five bull calves are all Valiant sons and the one heifer calf is by Moneymaker.

When you decide to use more than one sire to breed your supered cow, it means a long wait until you can sell the calves. We were on the telephone to Brattleboro to get the typing done this fast, but three of the bulls will be

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The Troutmans' first purchase in the family was Carl-A Chief Faith, bought at a consignment sale in 1977. Her 305 day record as a two-year-old was 20,152 pounds milk with 823 pounds fat, and her three-year-old record increased to 25,599 pounds milk and 1262 pounds fat. Her first ET calves, bred by Glen Valley Star will be on the ground this March.



Nelson herds together the last ET calves the Troutmans will have out of Fobes. It was a shock and a disappointment for the farm when this top-pedigree cow died this past fall. However, these five bull calves by S-W-D Valiant will be carrying on her traits of milk production and type.



Their faces are stamped with the sibling brand — these calves are full brothers and sisters out of Oakenbound Holsteins' aged cow Carl-A Bootmaker Fobes. The bull and two heifers are sired by Pawnee Farm Arlinda Chief.