

Oakenbound Holsteins

(Continued from Page A34)

ported to France through the American Marketing Service if everything goes all right. Another Valiant son is going to Carnation Genetics," Troutman says.

Telephone calls, blood-types okayed, ET expert hired — is it worth all the trouble?

The Troutmans' answer to that question is an emphatic "yes."

"Everything is worth while," said Richard. "The only thing is you're fooling around with Mother Nature and they say you can run a cow."

"It's a serious business," added Nelson, "but it's the best thing to happen to us. We've had more of the right calves out of Fobes in two years than her previous owner had in eight."

But there'll be no more calves out of Fobes for the Troutmans. A freak mishap in the barn set the stage for the cow's downfall, and she died this fall of pneumonia.

"She was in her tenth year and it would have been nice to have had 10 more calves out of her, but at least we have 10 on the ground — better than if Fobes would have gone for hamburger," Nelson mused.

Those ten offspring will hopefully be carrying on Fobes' production traits. Her lifetime record stands at 126,496 pounds of milk with 4961 pounds fat. This Very Good-88 cow was in milk 2407 days during her lifetime.

The Oakenbound Holstein's next ET calves

are due March 15. These calves are out of Faith and bred by Glen Valley Star.

"We supered Faith on Friday the 13th," Nelson said, "and we flushed 13 eggs. One of those eggs was infertile and all but four of the rest were dying. So, we transplanted the four and got two pregnancies."

"We singled Farah as a two-year-old and got a bull calf by Bis-May Astro Jupiter. He was born July 19 last year and will be consigned at the ET Invitational Sale in March at the Penn-Col Farm, Millville."

Nelson smiled when he said they hope to superovulate Faith's Apollo Rocket heifer, calved January 3, 1980.

"We'll single her and breed her to Persuader first. That way we'll know if she's cystic or if there are any problems before we superovulate her."

But Nelson cautioned others interested in trying ET that before any injections are given to a donor cow, the farmer needs to have a market for the bulls.

"Make sure it's a cross that someone is interested in buying and get as many sold before the breeding as possible. You may find you will need to change your thinking on breeding your cow to Jet Stream if all the studs and breeders want are Chief sons."

Embryo transferring requires good cycling cattle, record keeping, and an understanding of genetics and breeding before it is

undertaken — otherwise the end results could mean two to ten poor calves that won't cover the costs of the procedure, Richard warned.

It also takes recipient heifers (at least 10 to 15 for a super, said Nelson) with records on their heat detection, a series of 12 injections of follicle stimulating hormone to the donor cow, prostaglandin for both donor and recipients so their heats are synchronized, and finally palpating the recipients and implanting done by a transfer technician.

Nelson admitted the process takes a bit more time than the normal breeding program on most dairy farms, but he said ET is worth it.

Echoing his comments is brother and partner Richard R., Jr. and father Richard who started the dairy business with his wife Phoebe some 30 years ago.

"I started milking with 18 grade cows," laughed Richard. "My dad didn't let me buy purebred cattle because they cost too much. Now we have 109 cows on test of which 95 percent are registered."

"The only cows that aren't registered are the grades we bought for recipient heifers and decided to keep after they calved — otherwise we'd be 100 percent registered," Richard says.

Not only has the size of the herd increased, but so too has the size of the farm.

When Richard started farming, the farm had only 98 acres. Since then more acreage has been purchased and the farm is now up to 125 acres.

Growth — it seems to be a trend at Oakenbound Holsteins. Now, with their foundation stock and ET program, they're growing



The Troutmans use calf kennels for raising calves. Richard said he agrees with the experts that good ventilation and clean, dry air are the key to raising calves. Using materials around the farm, they constructed the kennels using the Penn State design.

some of tomorrow's Holsteins production record breaking The Troutmans are proving the color of gold is sometimes black and white

Why plants need magnesium

LITITZ — Magnesium — without it we would not have a green world. Magnesium is a part of every plant cell.

Magnesium is the heart of chlorophyll, the green pigment in plants. The process of photosynthesis, by which the plant combines sunlight, air, water and certain elements to produce plant tissue, would cease without magnesium.

Deficiencies of magnesium in the soil or the presence of magnesium in the soil in forms of very low availability results in reduced plant yields and plants of low nutritional quality.

A lack of magnesium in the diets of animals, particularly cattle and sheep, have led to health problems that are fatal under severe conditions. This condition is called "grass tetany" or "grass staggers." Animals suffering this condition have

low magnesium levels in their blood serum. The treatment for the condition is injections of magnesium.

As magnesium is not accumulated in the animal system daily, intake of the proper amount of magnesium through the animal diet is important. Thus, good plant and animal nutrition begins with a good soil fertility program.

Most soils contain large amounts of magnesium. However, very acid soils or sandy soils may lack adequate magnesium supplies for good plant nutrition. Even though soils may contain adequate

magnesium an unbalanced soil fertility condition may reduce the uptake of magnesium by plants. Very high soil potassium levels often prevent plant uptake of magnesium.

Good magnesium nutrition for plants and animals is greatly dependent upon a sound soil fertility program beginning with the proper use of limestone. Limestone should be applied to maintain soil pH above 6.0 which keeps magnesium in the soil available to plants. If soil supplies are low, dolomitic or high-magnesium limestone should be used in the liming program.

Land Bank interest to go to 12 percent

BALTIMORE, MD — Interest rates on Federal Land Bank loans will increase to 12 percent effective February 1, 1981.

The announcement of the increase was made last Friday by Gene E. Swackhamer, president of the Baltimore Farm Credit District.

Swackhamer said the increase is in response to sharply higher cost of funds experienced in recent weeks.

Market conditions are monitored closely and appropriate adjustments to interest rates are made as soon as practical, he added.

Swackhamer also said the Land Bank is imposing a three percent closing fee on new money loaned based on applications taken on and after December 1, 1980.

He said the three percent fee is being levied to alleviate the burden of having to charge an even higher interest rate on existing loans.

Merry Christmas

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BUILDING LOTS, FARM EQUIPMENT, TRUCKS, WALNUT & CHERRY LUMBER

SAT., JANUARY 3, 1981

at 10 A.M.

(8 miles north of Kutztown), go N. from Rt. 22 & New Smithville exit, follow Rt. 863 toward Stines Corner for 4 miles, turn onto rd to farm, Lehigh Co. Pa.

1978 JD 2440 tractor w/roll guard, enclosure, 15 5x38 tires, 540 hrs., JD 146 heavy duty front end loader, & Meyers 8' snow blade; Farmall H tractor, culti for same, MC 203 combine w/10' grain head & two row corn head, NH 469 haybine, JD 14-T baler, Athens 11' hvy duty transport tandem disc; Dunham 9' disc, three sec spring tooth harrow, 9' single roll cultipacker, Ontario 16 disc grain drill on steel, JD F 145-A semi mt four bot 16" pl, JD three bot 14" 3 pt. pl, JD two bot 14" trailer pl; JD 490 four row corn planter, JD 290 two row corn planter; N Idea 12-A manure spreader, Wood Bros 72" rotary cutter (new), Little Giant 22' elev (new); Century 300 gal trailer weed sprayer (new), N Idea four bar rake on rubber, N Idea 7" trailer (PTO) grass mower, hyd. wood splitter, (2) four wheel rubber tire trailers, (2) two wheel rubber tire trailers, 1970 Ford 1/2 ton pickup, 8 pickup camper cab; 1936 Chev truck chassis (running); Allis Chalmers 8 hp. 36" riding mower; 22" mower, 300 gal. skid fuel tank w/pump; 275 gal. oil stove tank, hyd. cylinders, Rem SL-4 chain saw; new bee hive & accessories; seasoned rough sawed lumber including approx 300' walnut, 100' cherry, 500' oak, drum type poultry plucker; 3 hp two piston air compressor; hyd jacks; carpenters elec. hand tools & equip., assorted hand tools; car & truck tires; approx. 100 wooden pallets; sand blasting gun & attach.; ABC fire extinguishers, plus many articles too numerous to mention.

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PUBLIC SALE

OF HOG & STEER FARM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

at 2 P.M.

Located 2 miles East of Mt. Joy, 1 mile West of Rt. 283. On Manheim-Mt. Joy Rd. turn north onto Strickler Rd. then left onto Bricker Rd. (near Pleasant View Estates), Rapho Twp., Lanc. Co., Pa.

93 ACRES

more or less, with 67 acres under cultivation and the remainder in pasture & woodland w/running stream.

BANK BARN with 2 drive-in's & a corn barn attached. A 20 x 80 ft. silo with feed shed, 40 x 128 ft. steer barn with outside apron, 30 x 120 ft. finishing house with pit, heated 42 x 64 ft. farrowing house with 36 crates, 2 hog houses, all with pits and other misc. buildings.

2 1/2 STORY DOUBLE DWELLING with Asbestos siding. Side #1 contains 3 rooms & bath upstairs and 3 rooms (modern kitchen) & half bath downstairs. Laundry room with shower is attached. Side #2 contains 3 rooms & bath upstairs and 4 rooms (modern kitchen) downstairs. Laundry room with shower is attached. Oil hot-water heat (2 furnaces) and slate roofs.

This property has approx 1319 ft of road frontage along Strickler Rd and approx. 400 ft along Bricker Rd.

This farm has gravel land and is zoned agricultural. Persons wishing to view property may do so Saturday, Dec. 27 or Jan 3 from 12-4 P.M. or by calling 717-653-4905 for an appointment.

Sale by:
GLENN E. BRICKER
ELAINE F. BRICKER
J. David Young, Attorney

Terms: 10% Day of Sale with Balance on or before April 1, 1981
Auctioneer: Rufus Geib (665-4136) and Raymond Miller