



Robert E. Gitt, left, R2 Littlestown, welcomes a Japanese bull-buying mission. From left are Bill Nichol, Pennsylvania Holstein Association; K. Okada, and N. Yanagawa, of Japan Holstein Breeding Service; R. Ishida, and F. Fukumoto, of Nosawa and Co. Ltd., an import-export house

Japanese buyers

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records; and well known bulls in the animal's history.

At Penn Gate the Japanese group looked long and hard at Penn Gate Wallie Skystar, not quite a four year old bull.

Thirteen of Skystar's daughters were lined up on the right side of the barn, including a Farm Show junior champion who finished second in the open show.

During the trip, the Japanese looked at about 60 bulls. They hope to buy five or six.

Members of the Japanese trade delegation included Kazutoshi

Okada and Nori Yanagawa, both with the Japan Holstein Breeding Service Company; and Ray Ishida and Frank H Fukumoto, both with Nosawa.

The Japanese said their herds average 22 cows, with 14 milking. Herd averages run around 10,000 pounds.

Herds in Hokaido, Sapporo, tend to be larger, averaging 35 cows per herd. When the Japanese described Hokaido as the "Japanese Wisconsin," State Holstein Director Bill Nichol was quick to correct

"You mean the Japanese Pennsylvania," he said.

Otherwise, the project to trade cows for Toyotas went smoothly.

Nichol said Pennsylvania farmers can consider themselves fortunate to sell one or two bulls at most to the Japanese team.

In a friendly exchange with the Japanese, State Governor Dick Thornburgh told them, "The dairy industry is this state's leading agricultural industry"

He spoke of a trip he took to Japan and recalled the courtesy of the Japanese hosts. He added that Pennsylvania has many good things to ship to the Japanese.

"One strong piece of evidence that we have dairy cattle worth

exporting to Japan is that our milk production has increased even though the number of cows in our herds has decreased," Thornburgh said

The Governor relied on Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell, himself a Bucks County dairy farmer, to explain pedigree charts and point out the sound qualities of the cattle in the Gitt herd.

Yanagawa, a breeding specialist, said he was looking for production first and type next.

He said the Holsteins in Japan generally are smaller than U.S. cows.

"We are looking for tall cows

with good butterfat. We want good udder attachment and good strong feet," he said.

The high production argument was graphically illustrated in Penn Gate's barn where only 40 cows occupy 70 stalls.

"That's to help the surplus," Robert Gitt explained.

"Why were we chosen to host such a distinguished group?" Jean Gitt asked as the Governor and the Japanese prepared to leave.

"Class always tells," Thornburgh explained.

The Japanese certainly saw a lot of Holstein class at Penn Gate and at the other Pennsylvania dairies they visited.

Elanco to hold pseudorabies session

BLUE BALL — Pseudorabies, a hog disease that has been causing livestock losses to hog and cattle feeders in Lancaster County and surrounding areas, will be the topic of an Adult Farmer Meeting to be held on March 12, at 1:30 p.m. in the Union Grove Alternative School.

Pseudorabies, a disease without an affective treatment, will be discussed by a panel of veterinarians including Dr. George Zimmerman, Dr. Robert Graybill who have their own veterinarian practices, and Dr. George Landis, veterinarian with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

The panel will be discussing the extent of pseudorabies in the area. The symptoms of the disease and

what animals can be affected by or carry the disease will be discussed along with how the disease is spread into Pennsylvania and from farm to farm.

How to prevent the spread of pseudorabies to uninfected farms, what should be done if you think you may have the disease, and how the disease is confirmed will also be discussed by the veterinarians.

All hog and cattle farmers are encouraged to attend this meeting so that pseudorabies can be halted before it becomes a state wide problem.

The Union Grove School is located two miles north of Route 23 on Route 625 between Blue Ball and Bowmansville.

Further information can be obtained by calling Don Robinson or Bob Anderson at 215/445-5041



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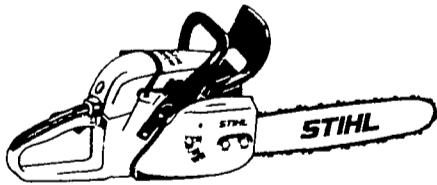
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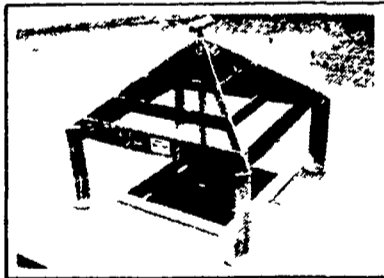
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