

How Penn Gate Farms breeds top Holsteins

BY JOYCE BUPP
Staff Correspondent

LITTLESTOWN — Bob and Jean Gitt have spent several decades breeding, milking and showing a topnotch herd of registered Holsteins at their Penn Gate Farms, Littlestown R2.

Merchandising those purebreds has been a major part of the Penn Gate operation, through regular advertising, consignments to sales and numerous showing winnings.

Tuesday afternoon, the Gitt's cattle merchandising program meshed with similar goals of the Thornburgh administration in promoting Pennsylvania agriculture products, and the Pennsylvania Holstein Association's international marketing of purebred black and whites.

As Governor Dick Thornburgh, Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell, four Japanese agriculture trade officials, and representatives of the state Holstein Association braved chilling winds whipping around the Penn Gate barns, a farm leadsman brought out one of the objects of all the attention.

Standing 66 inches at the shoulder, Penn Gate Wallie Skystar is a powerful and impressive 4-year-old bull, scored EX-93. His good-natured temperament, for a one-and-a-half-ton mass of muscle, was apparent.

As Governor Thornburgh

grasped the bull's nose lead, to joke with the Gitt family, friends and reporters, Skystar stood patiently and calmly for pictures with the trade delegation.

Sired by Lazy-L Skyliner Wallie, the bull has performed well in showing competition. He placed second in the 1979 Pennsylvania All-American show as a two-year-old and was later Honorable Mention two-year-old bull in the 1981 All American awards.

His maternal brother at Penn Gate, Beech Hill Elevation Jet Star, was also on the potential purchase list of the Japanese trade delegation.

Jet Star is a seven-year-old son of the famous Round Oak Rag Apple Elevation and is scored EX-92. The newly-released 1981 Holstein Association Sire Summary shows him carrying a plus-proof on milk of 784, and a plus on fat of 26, for a total production index of plus-192.

Dam of the pair is Beech-Hill Admiral Twila, a 15-year-old brood cow occupying an exclusive box stall next to her sons in the Penn Gate barn.

Twila was sired by Irvington Pride Admiral and is scored VG-89. Her long list of high production lactations includes a 7-year record of over 26,000 milk and 1029 fat in 305 days, with lifetime credits to date of 170,035 milk and 6749 fat.

Grandam is Beech-Hill Star Man Tess, classified VG-86. At 11 years,



Cattle buyers from Japan who visited several Pennsylvania dairy farms this week looked at cattle with a discerning eye. At Penn

Gate Farms in Adams County they looked at Skystar, a bull approaching four years old and saw 13 of his daughters lined up inside.

L-ss made a 305-day record of 20,920 milk and 829 fat, with a 4.0 percent fat test. She has lifetime credits of 187,932 milk and 7628 fat.

The Gitts also milk a sister to the bulls, Penn Gate Raven Tulip. Tulip is scored Very Good and has a 4-year record of over 18,000 milk.

One of the Gitt's homebreds, Penn Gate Fond Reflection, sold many years ago to Curtiss Breeding Service and another Penn Gate bull went to the American Breeders Service.

Trade delegations, like the one visiting Penn Gate herd and

several other Holstein operations in Pennsylvania, and across the country, are an important part of the merchandising of American agriculture exports.

According to Frank Fukumoto, the Japanese trade delegation

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