

Cow families excel at Rinehart farms

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at Rinehart Farms, known for strong cow families.

Castleberg Brothers and David Castleberg of Aspin, Wis. purchased two full-sisters which were Bootmaker daughters. The Wisconsin buyers bought Rinehart Bootmaker Vannie, an Excellent 90 6-year-old, for \$27,000. Her sister Rinehart Bootmaker Vale, a Very Good 87 3-year-old, brought an \$19,000 price tag.

New York buyer Scott Donaldson purchased more than \$40,000 worth of Rinehart animals including a Very Good 87 Milu Betty Ivanhoe Chief daughter.

The sale animals were dispersed across the country from Maine to California.

John and Sharon Rinehart's 400-acre registered Holstein farm is located near Taneytown, Md., just south of the Pennsylvania border.

To the casual observer, it appears as just another lovely farm. Big black and white cows dot the rolling pasture hills as a stream gently winds its way along the field.

But to the trained eye or even the most serious student of Holstein breeding, the farm is nothing short of incredible. Many of the Holsteins quietly grazing at Rinehart Farms, represent some

of the strongest cow families in the nation if not the world.

When John purchased his father's farm in the late 1960's he bought a herd of cows which expanded the herd from 30 to 100 head. The University of Maryland dairy science graduate looked for the best bull to use on the new herd and he settled on Apollo. That decision helped Rinehart build the remarkable herd he has today.

The keystone of the herd, without a doubt, would be Rinehart's "complete" All-American, Rinehart Apollo Dawfin. The All-American 2-year-old, Dawfin scored a Very Good 88 and from there her track record reads like a report card of a straight A student.

The excellent cow scored 92 as a 3-year-old, 94 as a 4 and 5-year-old, 95 as a 6-year-old, and today the 9-year-old Holstein topped it all with a 96 score.

"She's what every registered breeder dreams of," Sharon exclaimed. "She always was a young-looking cow."

Dawfin's lifetime record stands at better than 165,000 pounds of milk with a 4.4 percent butterfat test.

Typically, the Rinehart cows exhibit excellent mammary systems and said Sharon, are exceptionally big and carry a lot of strength.



John and Sharon Rinehart have built one of the finest registered Holstein herds in the country. They base their success on strong excellent cow families.

Another influential cow family at Rinehart Farms, traces back to a big white cow, Pleasant View Lilly Pond, affectionately known as "Whitie."

John bred Whitie, a 92 Gold

Medal Dam, with Zeldenrust Royal Pontiac and that mating produced Sarob Royal Wimpy, a 4E 93.

The White cow family claims three generations of Excellent Holsteins. Wimpy's daughter, Rinehart R Maple Wimpy, sired by Citation, also has an Excellent rating in her pedigree.

The Ruby line, which produced four generations of Excellents began with a Glendell daughter, Rinehart Chief Rubn. Other Excellents in the Ruby line includes a Matt daughter, an Elevation daughter and a Ecraso Golden Topper daughter.

In addition to using several older proven bulls in the herd, such as Apollo, Glendell, Valiant, Elevation and Ivanhoe, the Rineharts breed to various young sires.

However, the young sire must be out of a strong cow family, explains Sharon. She said her husband wishes he had more time to travel and look at daughters of the young sires in building his strong cow families.

"In the last 10 years, people are turning away from cow families and relying more on numbers," added Sharon.

But Rinehart Farm is living proof that cow families can add to the genetic progress of the breed.

The farm family is comprised of John, Sharon and their daughter, 8-year-old Jenell who will be on the show circuit in the near future. Although her parents will be there to guide Jenell in the beginning,

the youngest Rinehart will learn responsibility in the show ring.

"We want her to be able to say, 'I've done this on my own,'" explained the proud mother.

Sharon, a former veterinary assistant, presides over the 35 calves in hutches. At birth, the calves get a bellyful of colostrum, a painted navel and injections of vitamins A, D and E plus Iron.

The Rinehart's maternity ward also includes an oxygen machine, which Sharon said, has saved many valuable calves.

"If you just save a few veal calves, its paid for," she said of the economical tool.

The high producers and 2-year-olds in the milking herd are fed an 18 percent protein feed in the parlor. The feed bunks are filled with corn silage and the high producers are treated to good quality alfalfa hay twice a day to maintain the 17,000 pounds of milk herd average.

Sharon and John both supervise the twice a day milking in their double-3 herringbone parlor. Most of the herd is housed in a free stall barn, but recently the Rineharts have added a new facility with individual box stalls for Dawfin and many of her lofty peers.

In a recent advertisement of Rinehart Farms, John Rinehart challenged all registered Holstein breeders to establish high goals in the breeding, promoting, advertising and merchandising of the breed.

And according to many Holstein breeders, there's no better role model around than John Rinehart.



The sale topper, Rinehart Dawfinette drew the high bid of \$70,000. The Marquis daughter scored Very Good 89 as a 2-year-old and excellent on mammary.



Dawfin, pictured as a 7-year-old, has provided much of the ground work for John Rinehart's top Holstein herd. The Apollo daughter gained fame as a 2-year-old All-American.



No, this isn't a fancy horse barn, but rather individual boxstalls for several fancy Rinehart cows. When completed each boxstall will have an individual exercise pen.