

Ardrossan Ayrshires

(Continued from Page A22)

thought a lactation was a laxative," she laughs.

She did know, however, what a healthy animal should look like. And she knew her father's herd was looking worse by the day.

"They all had holes in their sides, so the first thing I did was take all their horns off," she recounts.

In the beginning, Hope Scott

relied heavily on the advice of farm manager Dr. E.C. Duebler.

"I didn't follow anybody's guidance except the Dueblers', but I listened to everybody, always. And still do," explains Scott.

Within two years after her takeover, the herd average jumped from 6,000 pounds of milk to 12,000 pounds.

The herd became the first in the nation to be certified free of tuberculosis and brucellosis. Until

then, Scott carried on her father's strict disease prevention program.

"My father wouldn't let any cow that left the place every come back." She admits she broke the rule about 10 years ago to show at the Pennsylvania All-American. The cow that left the farm came back a grand champion.

While many dairies today either feed haylage or plan to in the future, Ardrossan Ayrshires have had the benefit of a hay silo for

more than 70 years. Scott explains that her father was a grass farmer. He leaned away from corn in his cropping program to avoid erosion problems.

Today the high producing Ayrshires receive a mixture of haylage and corn silage top dressed with a concentrate according to stage of lactation and production. In addition, alfalfa hay is supplied during the evening milking. George Ankney, an Ardrossan employee 16 years, admits that he's seen a variety of dairy operations in his time and that Scott's Ayrshires are the best fed dairy cattle he's encountered.

"They've got feed in front of them all the time," Ankney offers.

Perhaps that's one of the reasons that Bell Ring, an Ace's Sultan daughter has consistently made lactation records to more than 30,000 pounds of milk. With well over 200,000 pounds of milk lifetime, it's no wonder the 9-year-old cow has become a favorite. When Scott decided to employ embryo transplants, Bell Ring was the likely candidate and produced a heifer and four bulls.

But possibly, the reason for Ardrossan's ongoing 18,000 pounds herd average has been the result of Hope Scott's ambitious drive to be the best. Now a dedicated student

of the bovine beast, Scott has become the official "planner" for the farm. Assisted by general manager Chester Billheim, Scott plans all matings and crop schedules.

She maintains the Ardrossan herd through a meticulous series of herd recordbooks, for calves, cows, the herd, and a daily journal. Monthly, when the DHIA sheets arrive, she transfers the official information onto the cow and herd records.

In retrospect, Hope Scott admits she would have liked to "get the feel of the business" a little sooner. But regardless if she would have started 40, 50 even 60 years ago, the ambitious woman probably would have tackled the challenge with no less ardor, no firmer a commitment.

And the commitment has spanned generations. Ayrshires have remained at Ardrossan, says Scott, because of loyalty to her father.

The herd has come along way from the first nine Ayrshire cows. And all because Helen Hope Montgomery Scott accepted a challenge, one which she did not plan. But she knows now it was the proper decision.

"Father would be pleased."



Scott is joined by two longtime Ardrossan employees, Richard Flayhart, left, and Heinz Melke, right, herd manager. With the trio is Oak Ridge Flashy Belvedere, Excellent 93. The

Classic daughter, out of the high producing Belleville family, has records to 22,502 pounds of milk and 947 pounds of fat as a 7-year-old.

USDA resumes storage facility loan approvals

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has resumed approval of Commodity Credit Corporation farm storage loan requests made by eligible producers on or before Feb. 8, Everett Rank, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization

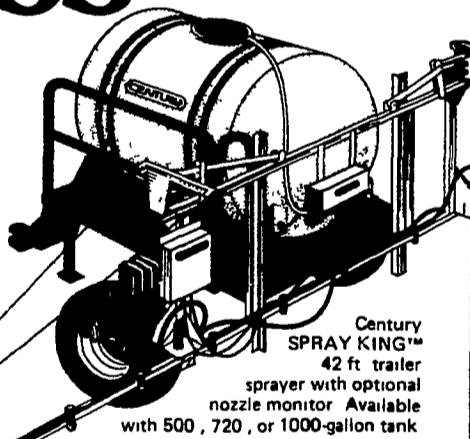
and Conservation Service, announced.

"We have instructed our field offices to resume processing those loans received through Feb. 8, when we temporarily suspended loan approvals to reexamine the program," Rank said.



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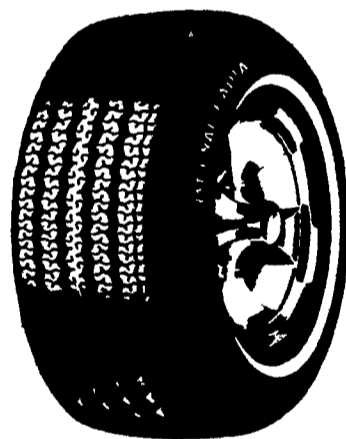
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