

Killdee Farms readies for grand finale

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO
CHESAPEAKE, Md. — A few months ago Killdee Farms was one of few Holstein farms in the nation to breed a 1981 All-American. Five days from now, on June 10, the entire herd will be sold as the farm itself goes up on the auction block.

Farm owners Walter and Joann Drummond will be moving to Vermont due to Mrs. Drummond's ill health which will bring about an end to an 11-year success story.

Drummond's construction business, specializing in conservation practices had increased in size. Soon Drummond had to make a decision — either expand the grade dairy farm or liquidate. He opted for the former. In 1971, the Drummonds set a goal for a 100 percent registered herd and they needed the right individual to get them there.

Enter Jack Miller. In 1971, Miller was herd manager for the highly-respected Brown Swiss herd at Needmor Farm, Bohemia, Md. Miller and Drummond found common ground with a dream for a registered herd and soon the Brown Swiss herdsman found himself milking Black and Whites.

The farm, located on Maryland's Eastern Shore, was known simply as Drummond's Farm or Drummond's Construction. But it was the migratory plover-live birds, the kildeers that frequented the area, that gave Jack Miller the idea for a farm name. Hence, Killdee Farms was christened.

Under Jack's guidance, the farm underwent several facelifts. A new 30-by-80-foot silo was added for

more corn silage. To accommodate the extra silage, a 200-foot concrete bunker with an automatic feeder was constructed in the feed lot. A pipeline replaced bucket milkers and a small bulk tank gave way to a larger one.

And the cattle arrived. "As money was available we bought bred heifers and cows at dispersal sales," Jack explained.

In 1975, Killdee purchased 44 registered Holsteins from Delaware breeder William Kux. The Aucreek herd figured heavily into Miller's breeding program.

Two of the original Aucreek purchases Aucreek Performer Apollo Lola, 2E 94 and her dam Aucreek Ivan Performer Viola, 3E 92 have been flushed for the past three years. Miller explained the aged cows won't be sold next week.

Over the years, Miller and the Drummonds have enjoyed some major wins in the show ring.

In 1976, the Lola cow won first 3-year-old and best udder in class at the Maryland State Fair. She went on to the Central National in Madison, Wisconsin where she stood fourth in her class.

Lola also won reserve all-Maryland aged cow and reserve grand champion at the Maryland State Fair in 1978. The same year, her daughter Magnet Lola finished with reserve all-Maryland senior yearling and stood third at the Eastern National.

By far, the greatest milestone in the Killdee show string occurred in the Killdee show string occurred in

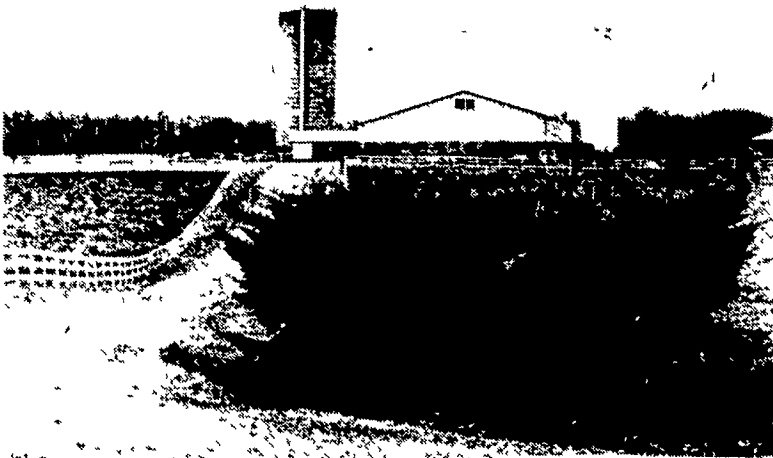
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Two outstanding members of Killdee Farms, "Bubbler," and herdsman Jack Miller, the man who bred the All-American 2-year-old pose for what may be their final picture together before next week's dispersal sale.



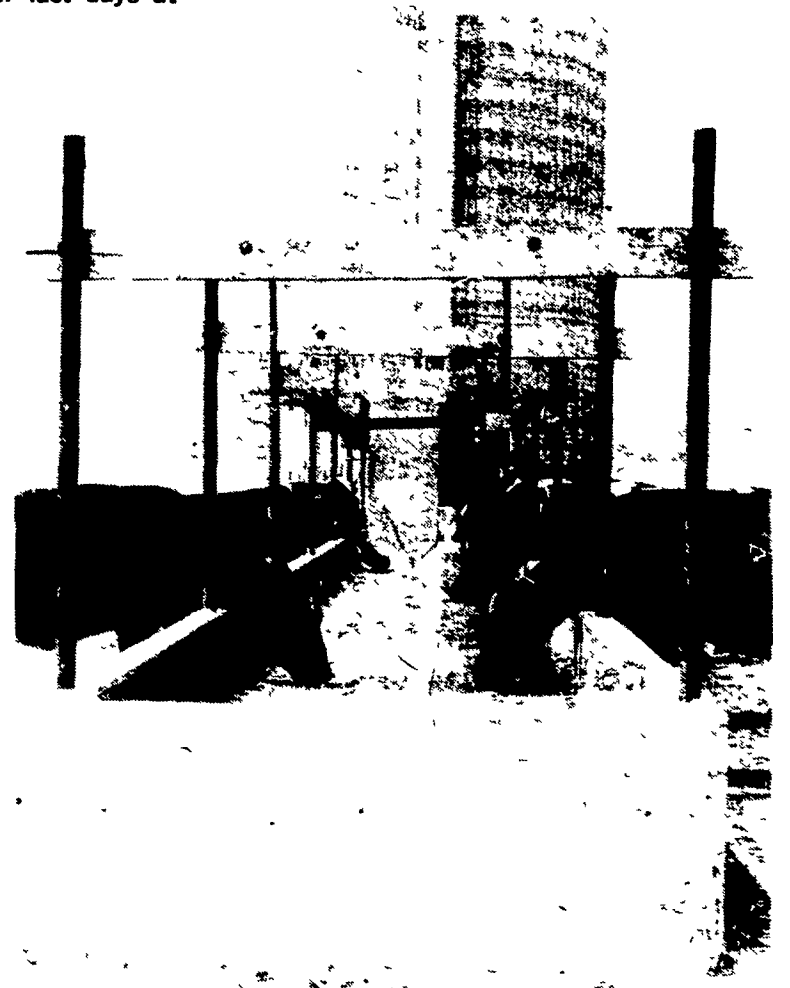
With sale neck tags already in place, a few of the Killdee animals spend their last days at Killdee, relaxing in ample straw bedding.



Killdee Farms, located near Chesapeake City, Maryland has developed one of the top registered Holstein herds in the state in just 11 years. But due to poor health of owner Joann Drummond, the farm is up for sale and the entire herd will be dispersed on June 10 at the Guernsey Pavilion in Lancaster.



All-American 2 year old Killdee 1 Bubbler 89 Holstein is out of Killdee Astro Della Delight will be selling in the Killdee dispersal. Sired by SSF Gay Ideal Buffler, the Very Good a Very Good Astronaut daughter.



Several Killdee Holsteins feed from the 200-foot concrete bunker. The bunker and a 30-by 80-foot silo were added to the Farm's facilities under Jack Miller's guidance.