

First eastern show highlights RWDCA calendar

● **CRYSTAL SPRINGS** — As a result of growing interest in Red and White dairy cattle, members of the Red and White Dairy Cattle Association soon may have their first eastern show in the

Association's 12-year history, said RWDCA spokesman John Carpenter. According to Carpenter, the show and sale are tentatively planned for April 9-10 at the Farm

Show Complex in Harrisburg. The show, which is expected to feature 75 to 100 animals, will complement the RWDCA annual spring sale, usually held in the Guernsey Pavilion in Lancaster.

"We're very happy with the sale facilities, but we can't really hold a show there," Carpenter explained. "There has been a growing desire for breeders to show their animals."

Previously, Red and White breeders' only outlet was the national show and sale held in Wisconsin each fall.

"All local shows do not have a class for Red and Whites," Carpenter noted.

For many Red and White breeders, the tentative eastern show is welcome news.

"I'm pretty excited about it," said Ginny Davis, who along with husband Bill operate one of the leading Red and White herds in the nation with a rolling herd average of almost 21,000 on 70 cows.

"I just wish the local fairs would go along with it," said the Bradford County woman. She explained that the Red and White cattle are not recognized by the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association.

"That's where the problem is," she said. Consequently, the Davises double-register some of their animals, with the Holstein Association of America and with the RWDCA. Davis explained that her two sons can then show their animals with the black and white in youth competition.

For most Red and White breeders, show quality RWDCA-registered animals are not unlike the old saying, "all dressed up with no place to go."

Red and White membership has steadily increased at a rate of 15 percent each year said Carpenter. In 1970, the RWDCA recorded 538 members which has grown to the

1982 projection of more than 8,000.

According to Carpenter, most of the original RWDCA founders were Milking Shorthorn breeders. Many of the breeders were familiar with the Red Holstein as a genetic color variation of the black and white Holstein breed and viewed these cattle first as a means to infuse new blood into the Milking Shorthorn breed and secondly as a promising venture in themselves.

For a time, crossbred Red Holstein-Milking Shorthorn cattle were entered in an appendix registry of the Milking Shorthorn Society, but a growing awareness of the possibilities of pure red Holsteins led to the foundation of the RWDCA in 1964, Carpenter noted.

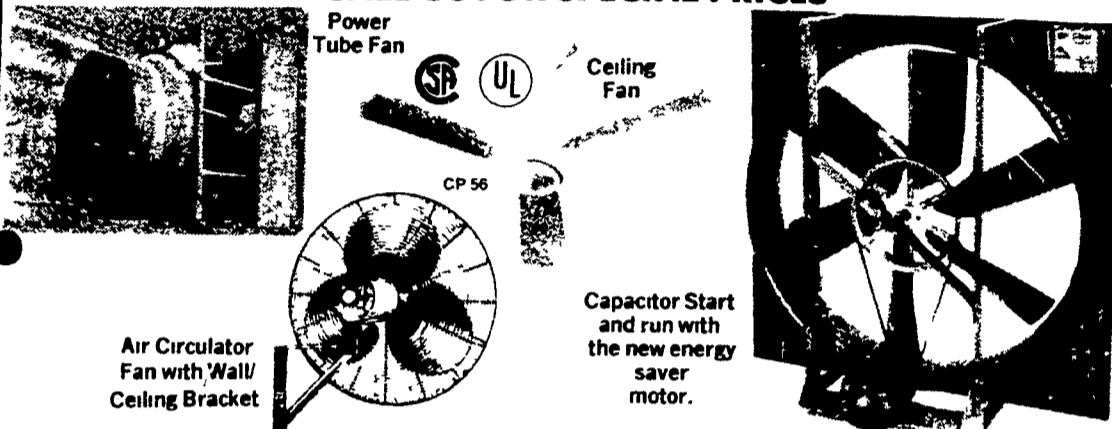
From the beginning, the RWDCA has operated with an open herdbook. This registration program accepts any dairy animal regardless of breed, age, or color. A grade-up program requiring two crosses to a purebred sire for grade Holsteins or three crosses to a purebred sire for colored breeds allows breeders to grade-up to purebred Red and White status. However, Carpenter explained that a breeder is not required to follow this grade-up plan in order to record cattle in the herdbook.

"A lot of grade breeders aren't aware they are eligible for our program," said Carpenter.

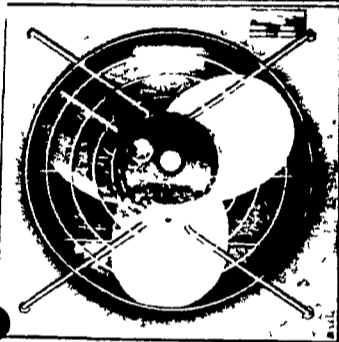
At this time, Carpenter noted that that about 50 percent of all registrations are black and white Holsteins and ten percent are animals of mixed breeding, usually Ayrshire, Guernsey or Milking Shorthorn. — DT

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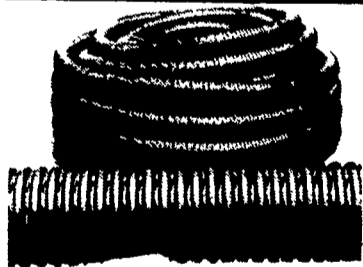
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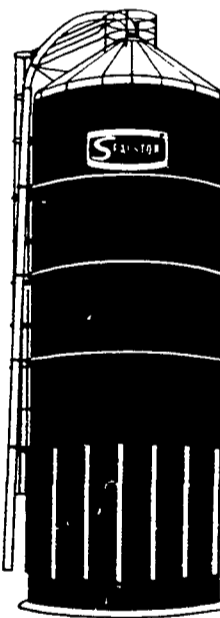


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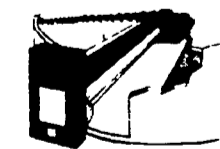
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