

Solving problems

(Continued from Page D20)

for 45% of today's Belgian cattle, with 450,000 head on 35,000 farms. They are a Belgian alternative to the milk surplus problems.

Blue & White cattle are part of the Belgian DHIA milk production record system with recent 305 day-2X breed averages of 8,800 lb. milk and 3.5% fat. They are dairy cattle, but their breeding and selection emphasis is on meat while maintaining an appropriate milk production level. Their history includes cross-breeding efforts of black & white cattle with Shorthorn more than 100 years ago. The popular "blue" color today is due to the intermediary "roan" gene of that Shorthorn background. When Belgians breed a blue & white cow

to a blue & white bull, they obtain in average 50% blue, 25% white and 25% black calves, as expected from laws of genetics. Thus, the breed is not fixed in appearance, but still dynamic in continuing adaptation to market needs.

What has been achieved however, just in the recent 20 years, is remarkable in the direction of establishing a "doubled-muscled" breed of dairy cattle, due to systematic young sire selection and progeny testing contracting of performance tested bull mothers; and an extensive A.I. program. The breed goal is a heavy muscular development of shoulders, back, loin and especially hind quarters with a sloping rump, first in bulls, but also now in cows.

The "double-muscle" loin is actually a genetic single trait for which Belgian selection is intentional, while in most other cattle breeds this trait has been selected against. The reason is the experience that double-muscle calves often have difficult birth because of their size. The Belgians solving this problem by expecting from their veterinarians routine Caesarean section assistance during birth whenever indicated. Today, more than a third of all Belgian blue & white cattle births are by Caesarean section. Calf mortality is only 2.5%, although bulls weigh in average more than 105 lb. at birth. Cows with eight Caesarean scars, four on each side, have been observed, (see accompanying photo), this type of birth does not seem to be production limiting in numbers of calves, also considering their average calving interval of 13

months. Quoted prices of \$40.00-\$50.00 per Caesarean section appear to pose no economical problems considering that current animal prices for breeding or meat purposes are extremely favorable, being often double or triple that of other dairy or dual-purpose cattle in Belgium.

The high prices for calves, heifers or bulls of blue & white cattle appear to compensate for their lower milk production compared to Holsteins. Blue & whites have the reputation from 12 months tests of: the best growth rates (3.3 lb/day); the best feed conversion efficiency (0.4 lb. feed/lb. gain), the highest slaughter yield (68%), and the best carcass composition (78% lean-meat, 9% fat, 13% bone).

Adult average weights of blue & whites are 2,500-2,800 lbs. for bulls and 1,650-1,900 lbs. for cows, yet their leg bones appear to be very

refined, which explains their low bone loss on slaughter.

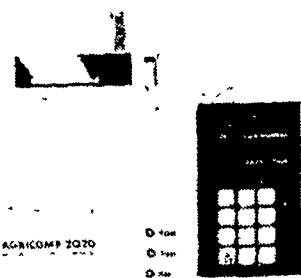
The astonishing aspect about Belgian blue & white cattle is that they appear to be relatively unknown in the U.S.; that the principles behind their development are much in tune with today's market needs in beef and in managing a dairy farm; and that adapting a cattle breed to changing market conditions is an interesting example by the Belgians that appears to be paying off for the farmers and their national economy.

On last year's Delaware dairy farm tour to Belgium and Holland, the farmer tour members were impressed by what they saw of Belgian blue & white breeding. They wondered why blue & whites or principles in their developments apparently have not been introduced to the U.S. yet, nor applied to existing breeds, dairy or beef.

SYSTEM 2000

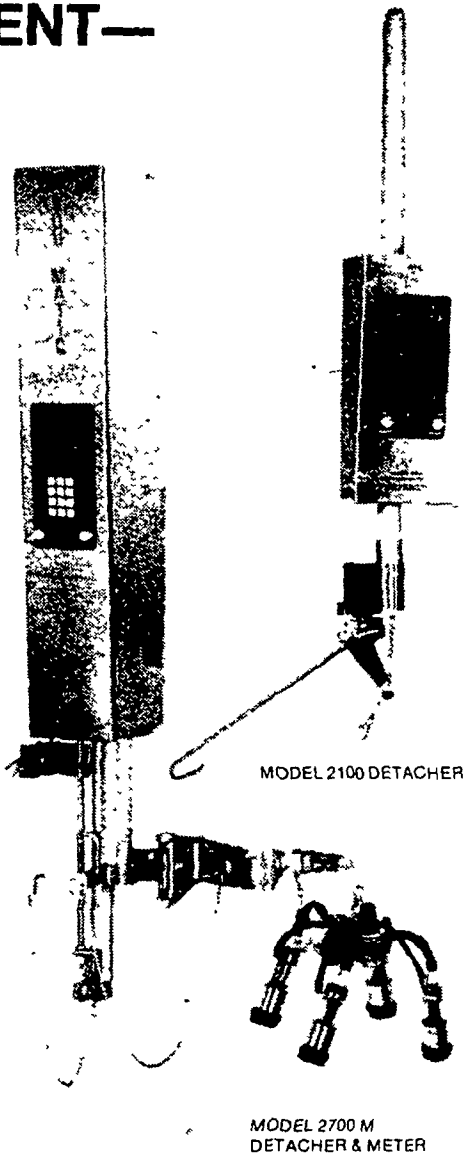
THE NEWEST DIMENSION IN DAIRY MANAGEMENT—

A system designed and built to combine the most innovative dairy automation with computerized dairy record keeping.



AGRI-COMP 2025 COMPUTER

The Bou-Matic System 2000 offers you a choice of three stages of dairy automation: automatic detachers, with Models available for either parlor or flat-barn installations; the Model 'M' milk meter, a revolutionary metering device that monitors milk flow and provides individual production data; and the Agricom 2025 computer, an on-farm management and record tool that offers a simple and efficient means of collecting and displaying dairy herd information.



MODEL 2100 DETACHER

MODEL 2700 M DETACHER & METER

Call or stop by for complete information on the System 2000.



CUMBERLAND FARM & DAIRY SERVICE
4560 Dairy Road
Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-263-0826

PAUL R. LANDIS
RD#2
Milton, Pa. 17847
717-437-2375

SHENK'S FARM SERVICE
501 E. Woods Drive
Lititz, PA 17543
717-626-1151

MENDENHALL DAIRY SUPPLY
R.D. #4
Brookville, Pa. 15825
814-849-5539

JONES DAIRY SERVICE
Box 52, Fostertown Rd.
Medford, NJ 08055
609-267-0198

W & J DAIRY SALES
RD 2 Oxford, Pa. 19363
717-529-2569

TRI-STATE AUTOMATION
Route 9, Whitehall Rd.
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301-790-3698

J & R SERVICE, INC.
215 N. Cornwall Rd.
Lebanon, Pa. 17042
717-273-6232

HAVING SOIL PROBLEMS?

Here's A Timely Tip...

Be sure you apply enough

The new higher-powered fertilizers often require more lime each application to maintain a neutral soil that tests to pH7.



Blue Ball, Pa. (717) 354-4125
Gap, Pa. (717) 442-4148



LOOK WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU NOW

CORN - We have rental equipment to sidedress corn with liquid nitrogen or anhydrous ammonia.

ALFALFA - Topdress after first cutting. If you missed, be sure to topdress after 2nd cutting.

Remember, established alfalfa is a legume and does not need nitrogen. Insecticide spraying after first or second cutting.

SOYBEANS - Asgro soybeans available.

TOBACCO - Call Us. We can handle your tobacco spraying needs.

Available Now....

SUCKER-STUFF H.C.

1 Gal. Per Acre Order Now & SAVE!



BULK BLENDS
MASTER FARMER
ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

ORGANIC PLANT FOOD CO.

Summer Hours: Weekdays 7:30 - 4:00
Closed Saturdays July and August