

Economy cuts into Berks Holstein Sale

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS
Staff Correspondent

READING — Dry weather, unstable milk prices, and the high cost of feed were believed to be the influencing factors for the \$1452.00 sale average at the 6th Annual Berks County Holstein Club Sale held Thursday evening, July 28, at the Reading Fairgrounds. Down more than \$300.00 from the sale average of the year before, this year's sale featured 47 animals with superior pedigrees from some of the top herds in the state.

"There's better quality this year than ever", Don Meyers, President of the Berks Holstein Club, stated. Meyers explained that most of the consignors "sort of expected the prices to be down", but because farmers can always use the extra money and the consignors had plenty of heifers, the sale committee was able to get these 47 top quality consignments, making this sale one of the largest Berks Club sales to date.

Although the crowd at the sale was large and when the available seats were filled, spectators and bidders filled the railings along the barn, George Merrill, Sale Chairman said, "It's not a buying crowd."

"I really think it's because of the uncertainty over the dairy situation," Merrill stated, giving his reasons for the buyers prices. Echoing the same reasons, Doty Remsburg, auctioneer for the sale, said, "The weather is dry, everybody's milking a lot of cows, the milk situation isn't stable, corn is going up, soybeans are going up..."

The distinction of high selling animal went to the consignment of Ray E. Bicksler, Richland, "Russelldale Pete Randi ET" sold for \$5000.00 on the successful bid of Robert S. Junge, R1, New Tripoli. A daughter of "Straight Pine Elevation Pete" out of a VG-89 "Arlinda Chief" dam with a high

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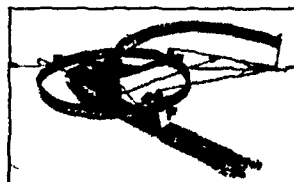
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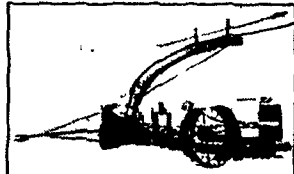
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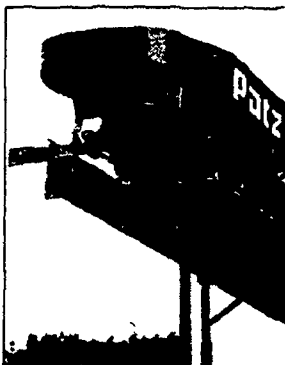
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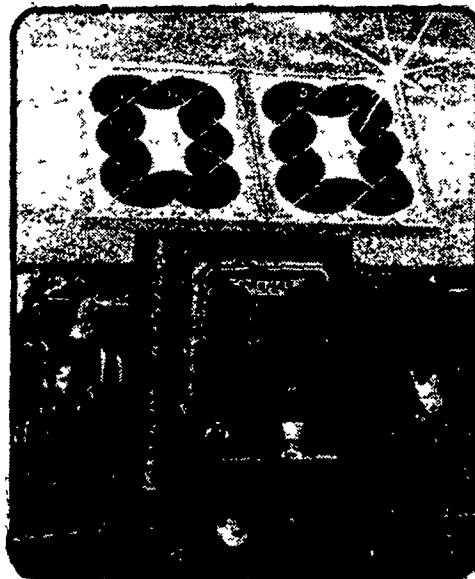
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