

Hostetter breeds Maplebound Holsteins for balance



The Donald Hostetter family was awarded the Holstein premier breeder award at Farm Show. Pictured with their grand Champion, Maplebound Rex Ivory, are family members, from left, Kim, Jay, Sue, Don and Dorcas.



Jay Hostetter keeps the herd looking good for visitors by vacuuming the cows to remove dust. The cows really enjoy this special attention, says Don.

BY TRISH WILLIAMS

PARKESBURG — Successful breeding of dairy cattle has earned Maplebound Holsteins many ribbons and trophies, high classification scores and respect for their owner, Donald Hostetter.

Don and Dorcas Hostetter and their children won the Premier Breeder award at the Farm Show this year, exhibiting their Maplebound Holsteins. Maplebound Rex Ivory, a homebred 4-year-old won the grand and senior champions in the Holstein classes, as well as the champion udder. Hostetter has recently leased Ivory's sire, Maplebound Starlight Rex, to Select Sires. Called Maple for short, Select Sires made his semen available for purchase on Feb. 1st.

Hostetter has a well trained eye for selecting outstanding dairy cattle. He has purchased 20 cows that were later classified excellent. He has bred 22 cows with the Maplebound prefix that were also classified excellent. The National Holstein Association has presented the Hostetters with the Progressive Breeders Award for the last four years. These kind of results from his breeding program have earned him recognition among his peers as a superior Holstein breeder. In fact, Hostetter has many requests from nearby breeders to advise them on their breeding programs.

But Hostetter's success has not come as a result of the usual contemporary methods of mating selection.

"I don't breed for the numbers game," Hostetter said candidly, but quickly tempored the

statement with, "indexes and predicted differences are important today for the marketability of an animal, but I don't base my sire selection only on numbers. I try to look at a cow and decide which bull is best suited for the cow."

"Before I use a bull I like to go out and see his daughters. I can get a pretty good pattern of the bull after I look at about 10 of his daughters," Hostetter said. "I also take the word of other dairymen that I respect, as to how a bull is."

There is no denying that high milk production is important, says Hostetter. After all it pays the bills. But he contends that a cow should be well balanced and have the strength that provides longevity for high lifetime production.

This premise is evident in his own herd. Maple's dam, Maplebound Standout Rhonda, is 11-years-old. She is still in the milking herd and showing the tremendous strength that has made her life a long and productive one.

Rhonda is classified 2E at 92. She has four lactations over 32,000 pounds of milk and a lifetime record of 218,000 pounds of milk and 6407 pounds of fat. Rhonda has passed her good genetics onto her son. Maple is rated at +708M +.04%F +32F PD\$100 +1.07type and has a 46% repeatability for milk and type.

Rhonda's sire, Vigo Standout Reflection, was proven by Brandywine Valley Breeders, a bull proving syndicate Hostetter and 11 other Chester County Holstein breeders established in 1970. The Brandywine Valley Breeders leased Vigo Standout Reflection to Curtis Breeders.

The syndicate purchases two young bulls each year to prove. BVB presently owns eight bulls. Three of their young sires have gone into AI studs.

Hostetter has sold six young bulls into AI service himself. He raises about 80% of his bulls to sell overseas or to local farmers. Last year alone the Hostetters sold 25 bulls and five heifers for export to South America. They have also started selling embryos abroad.

Much of Hostetter's success, he credits to his father, who helped to get him established and to his uncles John Umble and Wilmer Hostetter, who taught him a lot about purebred cattle. Both uncles are also members of Brandywine Valley Breeders.

Sugar, an outstanding cow bred by John Umble, was recently purchased by Hostetter at Umble's Swampy Hollow dispersal. He has

flushed her three times already and has obtained 29 embryos.

Good feeding, health care and management by Hostetter and his family have also contributed to the herd's quality. Dorcas and the children, Beverly, Jay, Kim, Sue and Missy have taken an active role on the farm. Jay now works fulltime with his father.

The DHIR rolling herd average for the 90 cow herd is 20,343 milk 3.6% 725F. They feed a cow milking 60 pounds a ration consisting of 25 pounds of corn silage, 15 pounds of hay, 16 pounds of high moisture ground ear corn, and 6.5

pounds of concentrate. A 100 pound cow will receive 25 pounds of corn silage, 18 pounds of hay, 29 pounds of high moisture corn and 14.5 pounds of concentrates. The concentrate contains soybean meal, corn distillers and a balanced mineral mix.

All this care to breeding and feeding has allowed Hostetter to merchandise half of the Maplebound offspring and has kept the cow turnover rate to about 16 percent a year. Not bad for someone who doesn't play the numbers game.

Importance of milker stressed in school

BY TRISH WILLIAMS

NEW HOLLAND — The man milking the cow is more important than the milking equipment itself in maintaining good udder health and high milk production.

This is the message Lancaster County Extension Dairy Agent Glenn Shirk told a group of farmer-students attending a two day milkers school Wednesday and Thursday at the New Holland Farm Credit office.

"A good milker on a bad milking system can often do a better job of milking a cow than a poor milker on a good milking system," Shirk said.

Because of the important role the milker plays on the dairy farm, Shirk, Bruce Kreider, Dauphin County Extension Agent, and Larry Kennel, a Gap Veterinarian, have conducted two milking schools this year in the area. Don Robinson and Bob Anderson, agriculture teachers at Eastern Lancaster County School District helped to coordinate the facilities for the school. Other milkers

schools are being carried out throughout the state.

Thirty-three farmer-students attended the school in New Holland. They were given a pretest to determine level of subject knowledge and what areas of instruction should be emphasized. A test was also given at the end of the two-day session to determine what they had learned.

Students learned about both the anatomy and the automation of milk production. Each student received a packet of educational materials, which covered everything from bacterial organisms causing mastitis, to guidelines from designing a milking system.

Kreider explained the growth and development of the mammary system from the fetal stages of development through the first lactation and dry period. He also explained the how the milk secretion process occurs.

Speaking on "How the Milking Machine Works," Shirk discussed

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The Hostetters are a family of animal lovers. Don is pictured here with his youngest daughter, Missy, and a few of the family's pets.