

# and visit six outstanding dairy operations

Canadian Aged Cow, Green Elms Echo Christina.

Several of Christina's sons and grandsons are in A.I., use, including three at United Breeders at Guelph, Ontario. Commissioner-ET, is by County Crystan, Commodore-ET is by Roybrook Starlite and Concord-ET is a Quality Ultimate Son.

Another son of the herd, Browndale Sir Christopher, is gaining popularity among Canadian breeders as well as interest in the U.S. Two of his daughters in the Browndale herd each have over 100,000 pounds milk in four lactations.

An extremely tall, big-framed Quality Ultimate daughter at

Browndale generated a great deal of interest among the busload of York dairymen. Kayglen Casey Ultimate, an eight-year-old, stands about 64 inches at the withers and has lactation records over 33,000 pounds milk. She was just recently purchased by Dreamstreet Holsteins in New York.

#### Final stop

Final stop on the three-day tour was at Ebyholme Farm, near Ayr, owned by Clarence Eby and his sons Brian and Donald.

This 45-head milking string includes 2 Excellents and 20 VG, with a herd average of over 16,000 milk and a 4.3 fat test.

Clarence Eby has bred this herd adhering to a personal theory of

using sons of top proven sires.

"I believe that by using the sons of good bulls, you tend to smooth out, or lessen, the effects of any bad characteristics that those popular sires passed genetically to their offspring," he philosophizes.

Ebyholme Royalty, a VG son out of one of the herd's Excellent brood dams, has several daughters and

granddaughters milking in the Eby barn, including an EX top producer and show winner. Ebyholme Starbrite is another home-bred sire with several offspring performing well.

Browndale sons see some use in the Eby herd, and a Browndale Convincer daughter earned Ebyholme an All Canadian award in 1981. Hilltopper Warden,

Canada's highest proven active sire for type, and in use in nearly all the herds visited is crossed to some Eby animals.

Host and tour guide to the York group was the Canadian Holstein Association's Ontario field representative Jerry Nelson. While in Canada, the group also had the opportunity to do some sightseeing at Niagra Falls.

## Quality pasture, some grain can make milk

### Roomy box stalls featured



At Roybrook Farm top brood cows, like Roybrook Mistress, are housed in individual, roomy box stalls. Mistress is a half sister to Roybropok Temptation, one of the numerous sires developed from this small family herd.

UNIVERSITY PARK — High quality pasture, combine with modest amounts of grain concentrate, can support reasonable milk yields from cows in midlactation, according to Earl M. Kesler, dairy scientist at Penn State.

In recent experiments, Kesler and associates found that milk production differed only slightly among cows grouped according to amount of concentrates in the rations. With good management, high quality pasture in the studies supplied a major portion of the nutrients dairy cows usually get from grain concentrates.

"Our findings should interest dairy farmers depending on grain concentrates for efficient milk yield," Kesler commented. "Future need for grains and plant proteins as human food - and increasing costs for energy - may dictate that future dairy herds will be fed less concentrates."

The experiment divided 30 cows into three groups based on in-

dividual cow needs for net energy above maintenance for lactation. The cows were grouped according to milk yield, milk fat percentage, and body weight prior to the studies.

Concentrates in the three groups were split among cows fed 33, 66, and 100 percent of the requirements for net energy for milk production above maintenance. Daily intake of grain concentrates by the three groups averaged 8, 17, and 25 pounds, respectively. Refusal of concentrate tended to increase with supplementation.

The tests included 21 Holsteins and three each of Jersey, Ayrshire, and Brown Swiss - all having produced more than one calf. The cows grazed high quality orchard grass and Kentucky blue grass for 140 days in mid-lactation. Average milk yield for the three concentrate groups was 42 pounds, 45 pounds, and 47 pounds.

When cows were switched to a new grazing plot, milk production

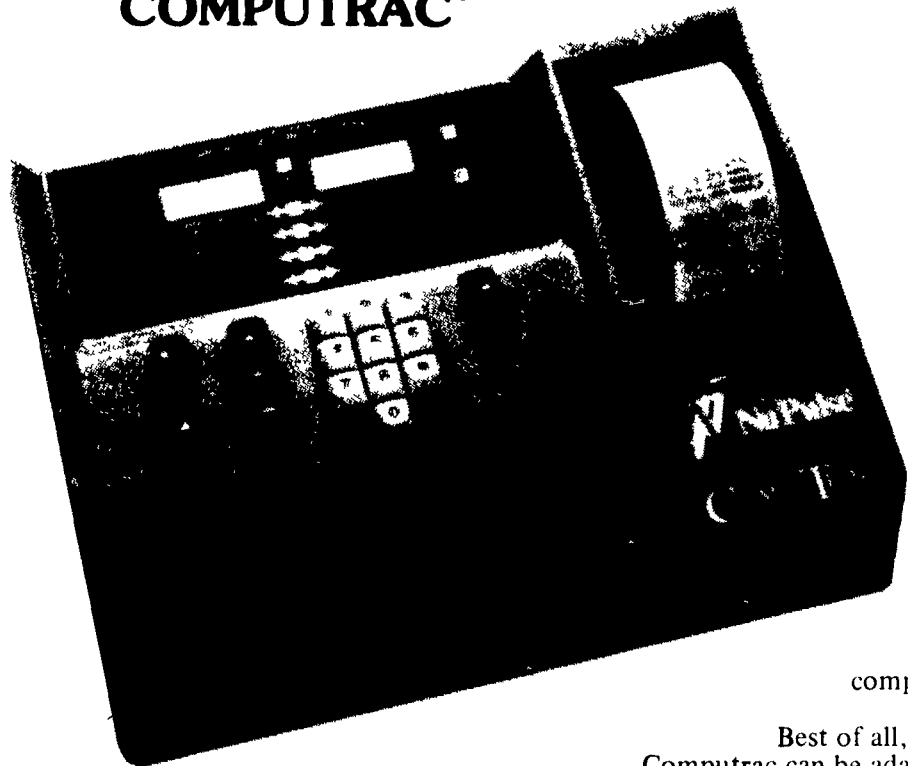
increased about three pounds after two to three days, presumably from increased available forage and selective grazing of quality herbage. After that, with continued grazing, milk yields declined gradually until the animals were changed again to a new plot. Milk fat yields were similar for all levels of grain concentrates.

Most of the cows lost weight in the early part of the trial, especially among the low-grain group. In general, cows tended to gain weight thereafter so they averaged 57 pounds heavier at the end of the trial than at the beginning. No major weight gain differences existed among treatment groups.

Health problems were minimal during the 140 day trial. There were a few mastitis flareups and a single case of grass tetany. The latter was complicated by development of a displaced abomasum, which required surgery.

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