

# The Dairy Farmer's A-B-C

**BY ROXANNE LEA GABEL**  
1983 Perry County Dairy Princess  
When you were little children  
Your teachers taught you your letters;  
And I'm sure at that time  
You thought nothing could be any better.

But I've got a surprise for you  
If you'll just listen to me.  
Today I'm going to teach you all  
The Dairy Farmer's A-B-C.

**A** is the grade of dairy products  
That are the best your money can buy.

If you want the best in quality  
Give grade A dairy products a try.

**B** is for butter,  
That tasty, golden spread.  
It's great when used in cooking;  
Or terrific, just butter and bread.

**C**, of course, is for the cow:  
Jersey, Guernsey, Holstein,  
Brown Swiss, Ayrshire, Milking  
Shorthorn;  
They give us milk that's oh-so-fine.

**D** is for the dairy  
Where the cow's milk is then shipped to;  
Pasteurized, packaged and  
delivered fresh  
From the dairy straight to you.

**E** is for eggnog,  
That traditional holiday drink,  
Made with eggs, REAL milk and  
nutmeg,  
And Christmas spirit, I should  
think.

**F** is for the farmer  
Who works from dawn till dim.  
For milk and dairy products  
We owe a lot of thanks to him.

(Turn to Page C4)

## Farm Talk

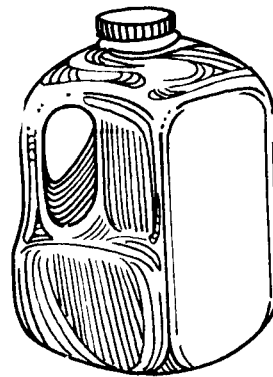
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problem of getting the pollen from one plant to another. Unlike corn pollen, soybean pollen is not carried by the wind, so another means of transportation must be found. One hope for this that is being explored involves transferring pollen by insects, such as honey bees.

The Illinois researcher has produced data on 37 hybrid combinations. The best single year increase was less than 30 percent, and Nelson says the samples were too small to produce conclusive results. In producing soybean hybrids, the plant expert points out that breeders are striving for increased yields. Traits like disease resistance are often controlled by a single gene and are relatively easy to transfer in plant breeding. Yield is a very complex trait and is more likely to be improved in a hybrid. Potentially, he says, every gene in the plant has an effect on yield.

The way the seed is produced is dependent on the overall efficient functioning of the plant from the extracting of carbon dioxide from the air to water and nutrition from the soil, to the final conversion into complex carbohydrate oil and protein in the seed. Nelson says parents should be selected for their ability to produce good hybrids and not for their ability to yield as a pure line.

In other crop areas, researchers are working with hybridization and some are being grown commercially. But Nelson thinks researchers are still down the road quite a ways from a commercial hybrid soybean.



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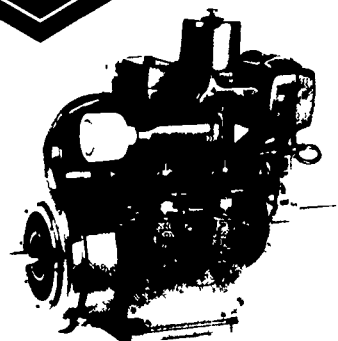
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