

AI's Unit 1 marks 45th year

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — It went unnoticed by most of the 200 dairy farmers and friends that this was the artificial breeding co-op's 45th year. The occasion was Unit #1's annual dinner meeting at Stanton Grange Hall, just off rt. 31, midway between Clinton and Flemington.

Unit #1 was the first artificial insemination cooperative formed in the U.S. And, the first calf born to the a.i. co-op's service was on the farm of the late Richard Schomp, a mile, as the crow flies, from the grange hall.

Unit #1 is now a part of Sire Power, Inc., headquartered at Tunkhannock, Pa. It is in District 4 area of the large breeding co-op, which serves Maryland, West Virginia, much of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and beyond.

Early Headquarters

The unit had its beginning in Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren Counties. Opening day was May 16, 1938. The late Dwight Babbitt, then Hunterdon County Agent, accompanied Jack Henderson, the unit's first technician, on his rounds. There were four farms on call for opening day. We still have in our file Babbitt's handwritten note listing the calls for the day.

Bulls were housed in the very

early days at Peter Van Nuys' Hillsboro Farm; Belle Mead; Tranquillity Farm, Allamuchy; and Lloyd Wescott's Mulhocaway Farm, near Clinton.

To facilitate semen collection and processing, bulls were moved to Mulhocaway and housed there until a farm at Clinton Point was purchased and developed into a suitable headquarters.

The unit was joined as time went on by other units in the state, eventually forming New Jersey Cooperative Breeders' Assn. In 1964, NJCBA merged with three co-

ops in Pennsylvania to form NEBA, Northeastern Breeders' Assn. And NEBA joined up with Maryland-West Virginia co-op to form Sire Power, Inc., some years later.

Still Unit #1

Unit #1 does maintain its identity...and proudly. The unit has four full-time technicians: Frank Baylor of Phillipsburg is Unit Manager, Rodney Harrison and Kevin Rush, Warren County, Peter Mishick, Hunterdon, make up the staff. Will Hoser of Stewartsville was not at the dinner this past

summer.

Baylor was recognized by Sire Power for 30 years of service. A pin and gift were presented by Willard Odenwelder, District 4 manager. Pete Michisk was recognized for 10 years of service.

The meeting was chaired by Ed Woolf, Unit #1 advisory committee. Elected to the committee at the meeting were: Mark Douglass, Pittstown; Wm. Mannon, Port Murray; Russell Smith, Warren Glen. Voting delegate was Ed Wood, Asbury; Holstein committee member - Floyd Schwab,

Ringoos, and Brown Swiss committee - Ken Hoser, Stewartsville

Speaker at the meeting was Margin Stout, Jr., Sales & Service Director for the NEBA area. He discussed the financial health of the co-op, new facilities, and showed pictures of top sires and their daughters.

Entertainment was provided by the County Gate players of Belvidere. Members of the cast of recently presented "Oklahoma" performed to the pleasure of the audience.

Md. work-comp law changes coverage

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — A new Maryland workman's compensation law denies coverage to some farm workers covered under previous legislation, according to a University of Maryland agricultural economist.

The former version of the state Workman's Compensation Act covered only seasonal and migratory farm laborers who operate machinery. A new version extends coverage to other previously uncovered employees, according to Dr. Dean F. Tuthill, but leaves one group of machinery operators without protection.

Maryland Attorney General Stephen Sachs interpreted the modified Workman's Compensation Act for Governor Hughes' office May 24, 1984 while it was under proposal. Now law, the Act has the following effect on farm labor, according to Sachs:

"Any person, including a seasonal or migratory farm laborer, who performs farm work for a farmer who has three or more fulltime employees, or a yearly payroll for his or her fulltime employees of \$15,000 or more, is covered by the Workman's Compensation Act unless that

person is employed within a 25-mile radius of his or her permanent place of residence and is employed for 13 weeks a year or less."

"It cuts back on the coverage of seasonal workers," Tuthill says, "especially those seasonal workers operating machinery and living within a 25-mile radius and working 13 weeks or less in a year."

Sachs noted this same problem last May when he interpreted the bill to modify employee coverage under the Act.

Tuthill says the problem with the

new law is in the wording. Mr. Sachs pointed this out to the Governor's office in his letter and recommended the law be rewritten during the next session.

"I would think they intended to have anybody covered who is operating machinery," Dr. Tuthill says.

Tuthill says that, in view of the Attorney General's recommendation, he expects the language of the Workman's Compensation Act to be reviewed during the next state senate session.

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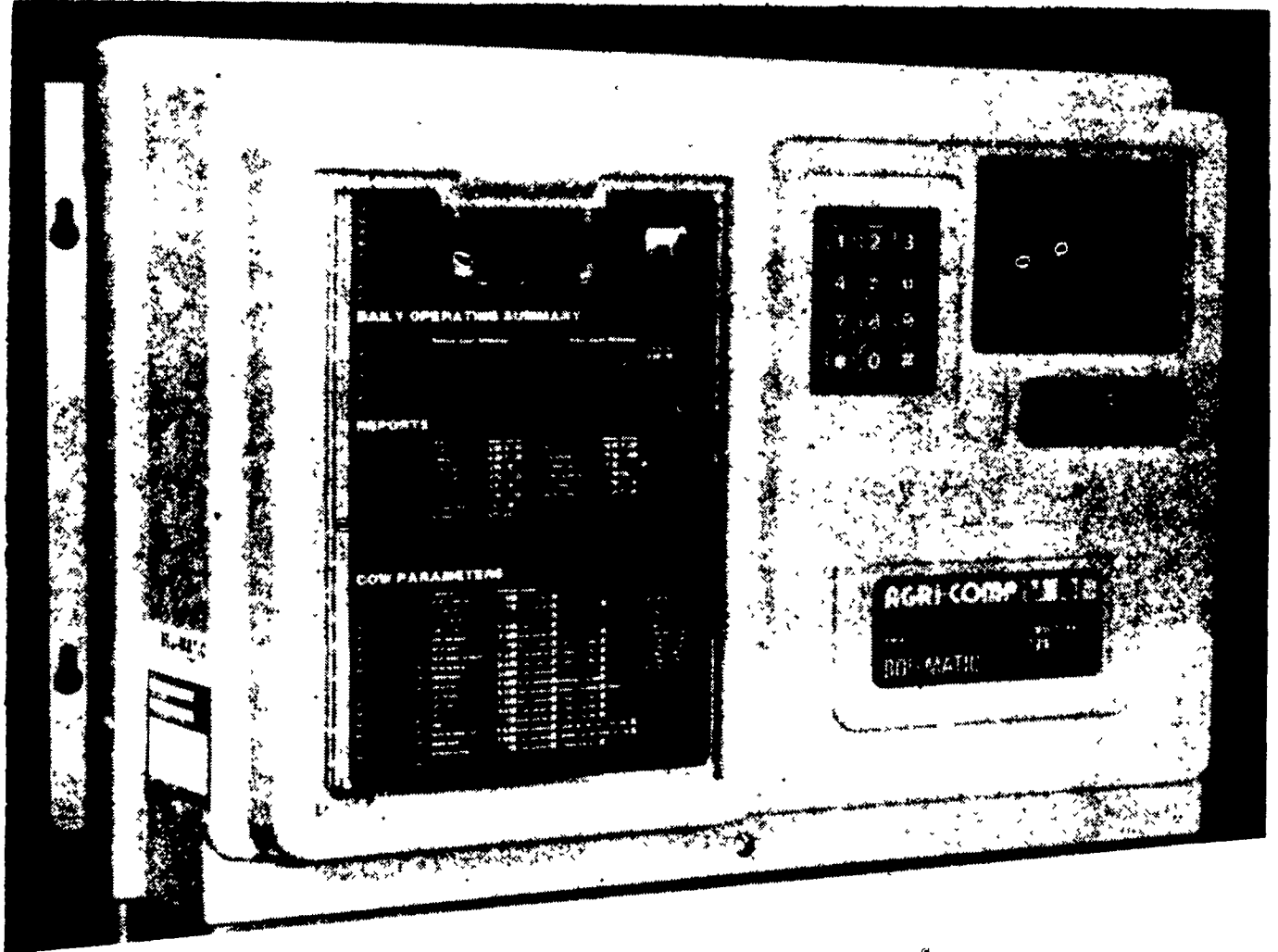
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