



KEN ROYAL

Mr. Underrated



29H3183 Strickler KEN ROYAL EX-94
A Daughter Price-Black Grade #5837



A KEN ROYAL Udder



Price-Black Grade #5846
USDA 1:85 RPT 98%
PD +104\$ +590M +.10% +39F +103 CU \$ +16 PRO. 1B
HFA 1-85 RPT 91%
+.05 PDT +451 TPI

The KEN ROYAL Daughters we see around the country are nice sized cows with a nice blend of dairyness and strength. They have wide rumps, set legs, and very uniform udders. We feel he is very underrated for type. KEN ROYAL is a very good buy at \$9 per unit.

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The Dairy Business

By
Newton Bair

**ON THE ROAD AGAIN:
SEEING AMERICA**
This may not be the best time or place for a travelogue, but after returning from a 6000 mile drive around the country I find it hard to keep silent about what I saw.

Always impressed with the size, scale and scope of our land, I look for anything that is different from local experience as I travel. The differences in climate, soils, rain patterns, and geography are most striking, particularly as these things affect the pattern of farming. It's hard to be bored when you travel with both eyes open and your mind alert for the new and the different.

Spring weather was still trying hard to get off the ground when we began our odyssey in early April. Heading south, we soon realized that we were catching up to summer long before it would reach Pennsylvania. In eastern Tennessee we saw the first corn fields with the green showing along the row.

In Alabama and Mississippi, cotton and rice fields were ready for planting. Some rice was already growing in Louisiana and eastern Texas.

Paddy rice is a fascinating crop. The paddie must be as level as the kitchen floor, because right after planting they are flooded with about six inches of water. That assures quick germination as well as guaranteed weed control. The paddie are kept flooded most of the growing season until near harvest time, when they are drained and expected to dry up enough to support the big combines with wide flotation tires.

The levees that sustain the floodwater follow strange patterns of contour. They must be absolutely level, so that even in a field that appears level to the eye, the contoured levees twist and turn like a snake across the terrain. They may vary in width from a few feet to a thousand feet, producing a surrealistic pattern when viewed from high ground.

The other essential requirement is the abundance of water that can be easily controlled. That's why the river flood plains of the southern Mississippi valley lend

themselves so well to this type of farming.

So, when travelling through southern Mississippi, Louisiana and eastern Texas, you are not so likely to see silos and hay or grain storage structures. You are most likely to see lots of rice elevators, mostly owned by local co-ops. Next in abundance are the cotton gins, with dozens of large, mesh-covered wagons sitting around.

And every John Deere or IH dealer has a yard full of odd-looking contraptions that I finally figured out are cotton pickers. They look somewhat like a corn picker, with row crop snouts, and have a large mesh-enclosed basket mounted on top to hold the fluffy cotton. The freshly plucked cotton balls, with seeds and trash still mixed together, are dumped into the oversized wagons for transport to the local gin. Most gins also have a seed processor nearby to process the seed for oil and livestock feed.

And while we are on this discussion of river-bottom farming, I must mention aquaculture, specifically, catfish farming. It requires acres of shallow fresh-water ponds, and a very specialized type of management. The catfish are fed a specially blended ration, and with good management will produce three to four tons of meat per acre harvest. they can be harvested several times a year, rain or shine.

We met a farm family from Mississippi who make their living on sixteen acres of catfish ponds. Ponds are harvested on a rotation basis, taking everything over about two pounds and leaving the smaller ones to grow some more. They are marketed through a quick freeze co-op that supplies thousands of restaurants with fish. Obviously, they don't spend their time lounging on the pond bank with a can of worms and hook and sinker. It's all very businesslike, gathering the catfish with a special seine that lets the little ones through and only holds the big ones.

And if you haven't eaten broiled catfish, you're in for a real treat when you do! Look for a place that advertizes all you can eat for \$3.50, and fill up on a real delicacy.




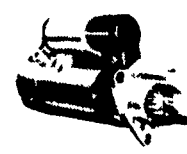

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