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Producers' vote will set fate of dairy promotion

BY JAMES H. EVERHART

LANCASTER — The future of dairy promotion hangs in the balance as dairy farmers across the country participate in a "vote of confidence" in a national referendum this month.

The referendum is the producers' chance to indicate whether they are willing to continue paying the bills for the promotional activities.

The national referendum is required under the provisions of the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983, the same legislation that created the promotion program and the 15-cent-a-hundredweight deduction that finances it.

The vote began Thursday and will continue through Aug. 20, under USDA supervision. All producers shipping milk during April 1985 are eligible to participate.

Dairy cooperatives can bloc-vote for their membership, but are required to send members ballots to use if they disagree with the co-op's vote.

Independents can pick up their ballots at their county ASCS office and mail them after Aug. 1 and before Aug. 20 in the postage-paid envelope provided. Only one vote per farm unit is permitted.

A toll-free hotline is available for anyone with questions. The number is 1-800-423-7206.

A majority of producers voting must be in favor of the promotion program for it to continue. If the referendum fails, the promotion program will expire with the rest of the Act in September.

Dairy leaders and promotion advocates have mounted an im-



Members of the panel who discussed dairy promotion at the Dairy Meeting Tuesday at the Farm and Home Center in Lancaster were: Daniel Fox, dairy farmer and director of Eastern Milk Producers; Richard Shellenberger, general manager of retail operation, Kreider Dairy Farms, and a member of the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Board; William Stout, Lehigh Valley Farmers; James Fraher, economist for Inter-State Milk Producers; Earl Fink, executive vice president of the Pennsylvania Association of Milk Dealers; and Blair Smith, ag economics professor at Penn State University.

pressive campaign to win the support of the producers in the all-important vote.

Representatives of several key promotional organizations met with about 120 dairy farmers in Lancaster Tuesday to drum up support for the promotion program.

The session Tuesday was the first of two dairy meetings held at the Farm and Home Center and sponsored by the Penn State Ex-

tension Service, Dairymen, Inc., Eastern Milk Producers, Inter-State Milk Producers, Kreider Dairy Farms and Lehigh Valley Farmers. A second session, concentrating on legislative issues confronting dairymen, will be held this Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Though the odds seem to be overwhelmingly in favor of referendum passage, none of the program participants seemed

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Art-Acres Marbeth Kay U - ET, a Chairman daughter, brought the top bid of \$25,500 at Wednesday's Sire Power Sale.

Average on Sire Power Sale soars to \$3813

BY WENDY WEHR

KUTZTOWN — A torrential downpour beating on the pavilion roof literally drowned out the auctioneers' voices. But while the rain beat down, the prices shot up during the 1985 Sire Power Sale, held Wednesday in Kutztown.

Spirited bidding brought the sale average to \$3813 on the 53 mature animals consigned to the sale. Last year's Sire Power extravaganza averaged only \$2,221.

Chairman daughters captured most of the attention during the day, with two of the sire's offspring bringing prices over \$20,000.

Easily topping the sale was Art-Acres Marbeth Kay U - ET, a Chairman daughter out of the well-known Art-Acres Elevation Kay. As bidding began on the two-year-old, Horace Backus didn't hesitate to call the Kay cow "one of the great brood cows of this generation."

Art-Acres Elevation Kay has four daughters in the top 200 of the CTPI list and a slew of remarkable progeny to her credit.

But Kay U's purchaser didn't need to be reminded of her outstanding pedigree. For a bid of \$25,500, Arthur Rhoderick brought Kay U home to Art-Acres, Hagerstown, Md.

Rhoderick bred Kay U and sold her three years ago as an embryo for \$8700. She was consigned to this year's Sire Power Sale by Owen E. Martin, also of Hagerstown, Md.

Fresh March 27, Kay U milked 72 pounds on the May test. She was bred July 23 to the increasingly popular Ned Boy bull.

The Ex-91 Kay has a wealth of credits to her name, including a 34,000 pound milk record and over 1115 pounds fat. Her cow index stands at +1273M and +\$143.

Following the Kay daughter, Del-Myr F H Chairman Pasta B brought a \$20,000 bid. A Chairman out of Del-Myr Bell Peggy, she was consigned by Fair Hill Farm, Chestertown, Md., and purchased by The Pasta Syndicate, in care of Ed Fry of Fair Hill.

Pasta's dam is a GP-83 Bell daughter with 26 210 pounds milk and .940 of fat. Her index stands at +784M. The October, 1982 Pasta is scored very good with an excellent mammary.

A Jetson daughter carrying a valuable embryo brought the third highest bid of the day. Mike Wilson, in care of Juniper Farm, Gray, Maine, purchased Brooks-Twain Jetson Puzzle-ET from Walter Brooks of Springville.

Puzzle is out of Brooks-Twain Elevation Penny, whose production as a five-year-old reached a remarkable 34,813 pounds of 4.1 percent milk and 1412 of fat. Penny is scored VG-87 with a cow index of +1437M and +\$182.

But Puzzle's sale value was increased by the embryo she carries from a Whittier Farms Ned Boy and Y-Brookside Chairman Snow mating. The Snow cow also has production records over 32,000 pounds milk and 1320 of fat.

Also exceeding a \$10,000 price tag was another Jetson offspring. For \$12,000 Greg and Pat Mitchell, of Davidsonville, Md., purchased a choice of a Jetson flush from Coldsprings Elevation Insert.

Marlin Hoff, of New Windsor, Md., consigned the Jetson embryo, which is due in August. The Insert cow is a fourth generation excellent with 34,760 pounds milk and 1216 of fat at five years and seven months.

Bringing a \$9000 bid was Mims-Dream Klansman Buttons, consigned by Miriam Hess, of New Windsor, Md. Out of Mims-Dream Cinnamon Brandy, Buttons is by Coldsprings Klansman - ET, also out of the Insert cow.

Buttons was purchased by Rosecroft Ltd., in care of Gary Derr, Mt Airy, Md.

All of the 57 head, which included 53 mature animals and 4 calves under a month old, were by Sire Power bulls. The total sale volume reached \$204,500.

Following the sale, Sire Power general manager DuWayne Kutz

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Triplets: Once in a blue moon?



While a "blue moon"—the second full moon in the month of July—shone over Lancaster Farming country last week, another rare event took place on the Phares and Martha Hurst farm, Leola, where a set of triplet calves got a healthy start on life.

Glendon (left), cousin Jerry, and Galen Hurst helped corral the rambunctious trio of two heifers and a bull. Penn State Extension dairy reproduction specialist Larry Specht says that only one set of triplets is dropped for every 50,000 bovine births. (Photo by Wendy Wehr)