

# Branstetter consignment brings top Ag Progress Sale bid



Bransdale Valiant Raylene brought the top bid of \$4,700 at Tuesday night's Ag Progress Sale in Centre Hall.

BY WENDY WEHR

CENTRE HALL — A crowd of onlookers filled the bleachers, but bidders were cautious at Tuesday evening's annual Ag Progress Sale. The high bid and sale average were down considerably from last year's figures.

Topping the sale was Bransdale Valiant Raylene, consigned by Erin Branstetter, of Tyrone. Daren Brown placed a \$4,700 bid on the December 1984 calf to take her home to Boalsburg.

Last year's top seller, also a Bransdale consignment, went for \$7,700 to a bidder from California.

Auctioneer Art Kling described the show-bound Raylene as "one of the deepest pedigreed animals here tonight," as he called off her credits to the crowd. The Valiant heifer is out of Bransdale Elevation Rosa-ET, a VG-85 Elevation daughter projected to almost 18,000 pounds milk on her second lactation.

The Raylene calf comes from five generations of very good and excellent dams. The fifth dam is the Ex-97 Kings Artic Rose, who produced 35,276 pounds of 3.7 percent milk at seven years and eight months.

The sale average for the night came to \$1,116 on 59 head. Last

year's average on the Centre County club sale came to \$1,542.

Two other animals brought bids over \$2,000 this year. Second high selling consignment was Huntsdale Pete Dusty-ET, purchased by Guy Hammond of Carlisle for \$2,500 from the Huntsdale Stock Farm, also of Carlisle.

Dusty is a May 1983 heifer by Straight-Pine Elevation Pete. Her dam is Huntsdale Deety Magnet, a VG-87 cow with a third lactation record of 20,200 pounds milk and 798 pounds fat.

Safe with calf by Huntsdale Messenger-ET, a Marshfield Elevation Tony son, Dusty comes from four generations of Very Good dams.

Third high of the night was Tussey-View Pabst Lyni, an 85-point Char-Sam Elevation Pabst daughter. She was consigned by Tussey View Farms of Centre Hall and purchased by Mount Supreme Holsteins, Boalsburg, for \$2,400.

Fresh July 15, Lyni gave 89.9 pounds on her last test. As a two-year-old she produced 17,720 pounds milk and 598 of fat. Lyni is out of Tussey-View Pacemaker Lale, and her granddam is Tussey-View Chief Lila, an Ex-90, 32,000 pound producer.

Sponsored by the Centre County Holstein Club, the sale was managed by Kling's Auction Service, Landisburg.

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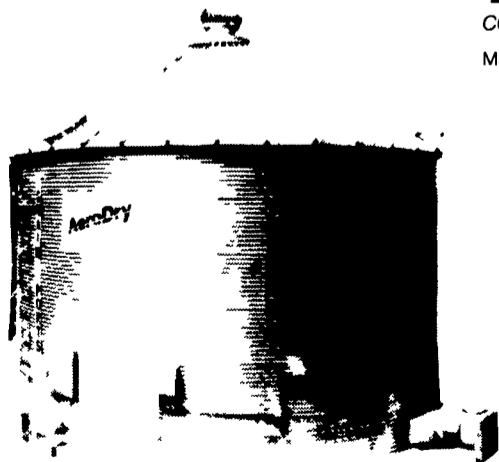
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### Cost effect of aphid control

LINCOLN, NB. — "It takes 79 pea-aphid days to cause enough economic damage to alfalfa to justify the cost of controlling the insects," says USDA entomologist George R. Manglitz, with the Agricultural Research Service, Lincoln, Nebraska.

In three years of tests University of Nebraska and Agricultural Research Service researchers reared pea aphids on three alfalfa varieties—Baker, Dawson, and Vernal—under caged conditions and evaluated the damage.

Of the three varieties, the greatest loss of forage yield and protein content was \$39 per acre on Vernal, a susceptible variety, when exposed to 475 pea-aphid days, Manglitz says.

"A pea-aphid day is the number of aphids found on a stem times the number of days," says Manglitz. For example, six aphids on a stem for 2 days would equal 12 aphid days.

Calculations to determine threshold for treatment were based on alfalfa at \$50 per ton and treatment cost at \$8 per acre. The plots were treated with methoxychlor to eliminate lady beetles, the major predator of pea aphids.

"Resistant varieties provide a definite advantage over susceptible varieties because they support fewer aphids, so populations are less likely to build up to the threshold level," Manglitz says.

We sincerely thank each of you, old friends and new, who came from far and near to help us in so many, many ways after the May 31st tornado in Lycoming Co.

Without your help, we could not have handled the losses to our farms and homes. Your help has encouraged us and renewed our prospective.

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