

Wanting to success with high index cows

have good luck in conception with Rotate," he commented.

With Rotate embryos they have had 20 to 30 pregnancies and one flush from a donor cow resulted in 19 good Rotate embryos. "We were quite happy that day," George remembered with a smile.

Ned Boy's offspring, George notes, stands out for its pleasing rump, open ribbing, strongly attached fore udder and walks on a good set of feet and legs.

Occasionally, according to George, he will gamble on a young upcoming bull such as Bachelor because, "We can't breed to high ones all the time — we'll go broke."

They feed the same rations now

as they did with their original herd, George says. No cow is fed more than 30 pounds per day of a balanced grain ration made according to Penn State specifications. The grain ration and corn silage are fed three times daily in addition to 12 pounds of hay per cow in the evening.

To aid in calving and as a ketosis preventative, the Sheyputs routinely inject cows two weeks before calving with Mu-selenium. George reports there have been very few cases of ketosis in their herd with this routine.

Having enough recipients, George says, is their biggest problem. "It's really hard to find enough recipients," he noted.

This problem was resolved with a solution that is as satisfying to the Sheyputs as to neighboring farmers. "We rent recipients from neighbors and pay a flat fee," George explained. "They keep the cows and we don't have to feed a large recipient herd."

A farmer receives payment equal to the worth of a calf, George pointed out. Presently, they have about 50 ongoing pregnancies.

Most of the Sheyputs' embryos are marketed through American markets in Virginia where they are sent to France, West Germany and Denmark. None are marketed within the United States. George sees little logic in competing against his own operation. Bulls are currently being sold to Japan and China.

George and his wife, Dee, find the shift to selling embryos agreeable for various reasons. "I think it's a lot more fun and interesting with buyers coming from other countries," George observes.

But George and Dee seem to have trouble agreeing whether or not they have more free time since the sellout. George says although they have fewer cows (50 as opposed to their previous 72 to 75), he feels they're about as busy either way. He says there is more paperwork now with calves, studs and bull going to testing.

Dee notes that the stress now is more mental than physical, but she affirms and appreciates the fact that they are able to do more things as a family now.

Perhaps there is a little more time, she says, because George and Paul have reached a levelling off phase in their expansion efforts



George, right, and Paul pose with Sheyland Valiant Athene, their highest index homebred cow.



George Sheyput stands with Walebe Christe E.T., the highest index cow at Sheyland. Her index is 1736M, .09%, 80F and \$235 and she was classified at VG86.

on the farm. George explained that they plan to keep their herd at 50 cows and Dee added that there currently are no plans for building additions.

Dee, who keeps the books, also observes that now, "The milk pays the bills and the (money earned from) ET's is extra."

Then there is the matter of

greater public recognition. Although George denies it by a vigorous shaking of his head, Dee insists he enjoys the extra recognition he receives now as a Sheyput who sells embryos. When someone approaches him at a function and asks about his herd, his eyes light up, she noted.

George did say he would do it all again.



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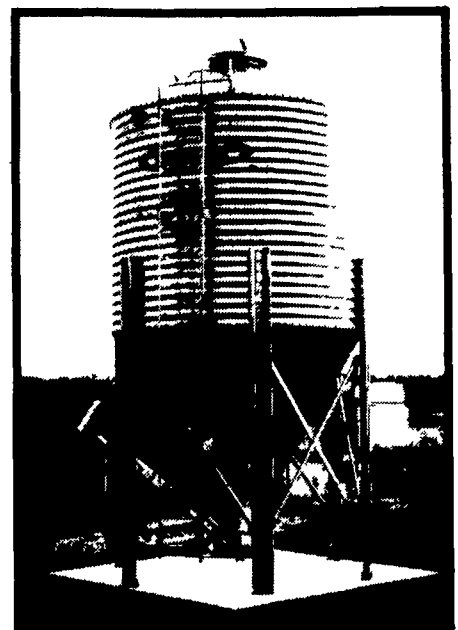


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