Optimism prevails at Select Sires meeting

With a record-breaking year already recorded in Select Sires' 1985 history book, optimism was at an all-time high at Select's April 2 and 3 Annual Meeting.

General Manager Richard Chichester reflected that optimism in his remarks to the delegation. "I indicated in the Annual Report that 1985 was the best year in Select's history. The accomplishments in 1985 over 1984 can certainly allow one to call 1985 the 'year of the comeback'. But the fact that 1985 was our best year does not mean serious challenges are not ahead. When I wrote this report, how little did I know how true this statement

Chichester was referring to the possible repercussion that the A.I. industry faces with the forthcoming slaughter of nearly one million dairy cows. The USDA announcement came earlier in the week, spurring numerous questions from directors, staff and guests meeting at Select's Plain City, Ohio headquarters. All were A.I. industry's overall increase in "crystal-balling" what the Dairy Termination Program means to the future of A.I.

Chichester admits that Select Sires is probably one of the major contributors to the milk surplus and that many of the dairymen who will terminate production are good Select Sires member patrons. However, Chichester, an A.I. employee for 25 years, notes that A.I. has "lived with" declining cow numbers for years and years.

He concluded his remarks, "The Select Sires challenge is to work towards a larger piece of a smaller pie. The future is for the strong, the fair, and the aggressive. And all our decisions must be tempered with good judgement."

Select Sires increased its "share of the pie" in 1985, registering over 450,000 units more in sales over the previous year. Total domestic and foreign sales were up 13.9%

record-breaking progression in sales exceeded the

sales by 16%. Each of the 11 member co-ops that were in place in 1985 also reported substantial increases over previous year-end tallies. International sales climbed 8% in 1985 with semen moving into 51 countries, establishing another new record.

The key that opened up sales increases in 1965 was the genetic merit of Select Sires semen. A leading contributor to the industry's sire pool, the demand for Select Sires is at an all-time high. In 1985 each proven unit of dairy semen marketed averaged +866 PDM and +0.76 PDT.

The demand for Select Sires semen accelerated semen production in 1985 with the Production Department recording 11,865 semen collections. Additional production was also available at the newly-constructed Wells Road dual-purpose barn.

In reporting the progress of Select's PGA young sire proving system, Select Sires Dairy Sire Analyst, Rodger Hoyt, awarded All West/Select Sires and MABC/Select Sires program coordinators for their outstanding administration of various phases of the sampling procedure.

In action brought before the Board of Directors, it was moved to increase the numbers of Select Sires Holsteins for sampling, commencing in 1987.

The Board also re-elected COBA Director, Fred Friday of Hamilton, Ohio as President of Select Sires for the coming year. All West's Martin Holdener. Enumclaw, Washington, will again serve the federation as First Vice President. Second Vice President, Clarence Bovke, Fond du Lac,

Wisconsin, represents East Central/Select Sires on the Executive Committee. Nine additional executive board members represent each of the remaining member co-ops. A total of 27 Directors comprise the full Select Sires Board.

In his remarks before the annual meeting, President Friday com-mented, "The test of every decision made here at Select Sires is how it will benefit farmers. Reflecting back at the decisions of the past 20 years of Select Sires, I don't believe our first directors ever dreamed all this success could ever had happened. I look forward to serving as your president as we begin another decade of success."

Universal offers Treflan choice

the recent expiration of Treflan's patent, formulation and distribution has now begun on CO-

MINNEAPOLIS, MN. - With OP° -branded Trifluralin 4EC, giving farmers an economical alternative.

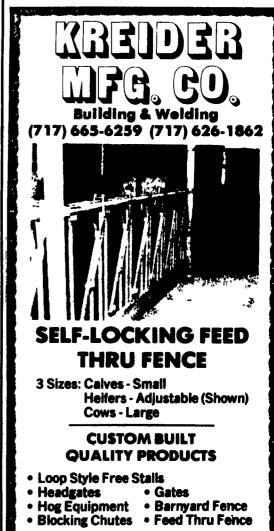
CO-OP Trifluralin 4EC and Elanco's Treflan® both contain four pounds of trifluralin per gallon. CO-OP trifluralin controls the same basic weed spectrum as Treflan, and is available from numerous local cooperatives in 21/2 gallon containers and 30 gallon drums.

"This is just the first of many products whose patents will expire before 1990," says Robert Ramsdell, Marketing Director at Universal Cooperatives. "Universal Cooperatives, which is owned by more than 30 regional cooperatives, has the staff, equipment, and quality control necessary to eventually offer an entire line of weed control products under the CO-OP label."

Farmers interested in using this economical alternative in 1986 are urged to contact their local cooperative for more information.







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