

Holstein Group Sees Embryos At Barn Meeting

BY SUE CROW

Maryland Correspondent

EMMITSBURG, Md. — A cold drizzly October day last Saturday greeted those in attendance at the Maryland Holstein Association's barn meeting. They group witnessed an informal demonstration on the flushing, splitting and implanting of embryos, performed by Dr. Allen McCauley and his team from Em-Tram, Elizabethtown, Pa.

McCauley and Dr. Boyd Henderson demonstrated the flushing technique by using five cows provided by Hills-Hope and Coldsprings Farms. Although he explained the basic principles from a beginner's standpoint, McCauley's also bought out points useful for the most experienced person in ET work.

At the beginning of the demonstration the cows were given an injection of Lydocane, a spinal block. Lydocane prevents

the animal from straining against the vet while he performing the flushing procedure by numbing the back end of their bodies.

The entire process for the five cows took two hours and netted in 18 embryos from one recipient.

Beth Grove assisted with the flushing procedure which resembled an assembly line. McCauley noted this practice is the only way to be cost effective.

McCauley also emphasized the importance of using healthy heifers as recipients. He noted that animals they could have used in the past as recipients, would never qualify now. He said this is one place corners can't be cut.

Although the whole process is not very complicated, McCauley pointed out, it all has to be done correctly to work.

The afternoon session featured McCauley's wife, Susan Hallowell, demonstrating how embryos are split. She worked through a

microscope which was hooked up to a television monitor, permitting the group to view the process.

McCauley concluded the day with a discussion on the future of ET's on the farm.

He emphasized the need to work only with cows that have marketable eggs, especially male. So far no reliable sexing procedure is available; experimentation in this area is ongoing, McCauley said.

The goal for ET work is to be able to freeze and thaw the embryo in a cotton plugged straw and then place the embryo in the cow with a minimum of handling in between. Last year Em-Tram posted a 64 percent survival rate with frozen embryos; at Em-Tram West, Turlock, Calif., they recorded a rate of 75 percent.

This year's host farm for the barn meeting was Hills-Hope run by David and Sally Hill, Emmitsburg.



Dr. Boyd Henderson of Em-Tram, Elizabethtown, Pa., points out embryos in various stages of division on the television monitor.

DISCOVER THE DAWN OF TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY!



DK 397

New - One Of Tomorrow's Leaders

Here is a hybrid you'll want to try for silage or grain. From the time DK 397 jumps out of the ground and develops strong stalks, you'll like this short-season fighter. It tolerates drought stress and offers excellent plant health. This 85 to 90 day relative maturity hybrid also offers very fast grain drydown.

- Excellent producer for grain or silage
- Superior stalk and root strength
- Very good seedling vigor
- 85 to 90 day relative maturity

DK 435

Good Ear Flex, Plant Health

Superior yields, excellent seedling growth and good response to medium or high populations makes DK 435 the hybrid you'll want to plant. Medium-tall with big ears at medium height. DK 435 has high grain-to-stover ratio. And this hybrid also rates well on drought tolerance, root and stalk strength and drydown. You'll be impressed with its excellent plant health and high test weight grain.

- Outstanding yields
- Very good standability
- High grain-to-stover ratio
- Excellent defensive characteristics
- Excellent seedling growth
- 92 to 97 day relative maturity

DK 524

Top Competitor

DK 524 may be new, but it already has a record that speaks for itself — this hybrid won or finished in the top three places 95% of the time in FACT plots in which it appeared. Good emergence and fast, early growth make it a favorite for early planting and in soils with more surface residue. Its ears are covered with husks that open early for fast grain moisture drydown.

- Superior yields
- Excellent emergence and early growth
- Very good stalk strength
- Very good plant health
- Excellent drydown
- 100-day relative maturity



"DEKALB" is a registered brand name. Numbers designate varieties or blends. As a condition of sale, please note statement of limited warranty and remedy on DEKALB PFIZER GENETICS orders and tags.

SELL
IT
WITH
A
LANCASTER
FARMING
CLASSIFIED



SADDLE UP!

To Better
Equipment...
Find It In
Lancaster
Farming's
CLASSIFIEDS!



STRIKE IT RICH!

SELL
IT
WITH
A

LANCASTER
FARMING
CLASSIFIED

