

# Holstein Judge Finds New Role

**BY JOYCE BUPP**  
York Co. Correspondent

**CARLISLE** — As the Holstein show gets underway Tuesday morning in the Farm Show's main arena, Creedin Cornman will be there, as he's been for more than 40 years, surrounded by the black and white cows he loves.

But Cornman's Farm Show participation takes on a new twist this year. He's the judge for the prestigious parade of registered Holsteins from across the Commonwealth.

"It's the thrill of my life to be invited to judge at the Farm Show," grins this long-time breeder, who's been on the tanbark trail since he was 9 years old.

What Cornman will be looking for to top his class selections are the same characteristics that he has favored for years in breeding the family's notable Justa Beauty Holsteins.

"Dairyness, with strength in the front," tops the qualities Cornman will be seeking from the circling parades of Holstein entries. "And high, wide, rear udders on cows, thin thighs and clean legs."

"A cow must be correct, not necessarily big," adds Cornman of his judging philosophy, which has roots deep in his childhood.

He laughingly recalls how, as a small boy, he spent hours clipping pictures of cows from the Holstein World magazine, and lining them up on blocks as "show strings."

Cornman began judging as a Cumberland County 4-H dairy club and Mechanicsburg High School FFA member. Along with other 1947 state FFA judging team members Berks Countian Ray Seidel and George Ott Jr., Northampton County, he made the 11-day trip to the national dairy show at Waterloo, Iowa, where the trio placed third in national competition.

petition.

In the mid 1960s, he was invited to study at the PDCA annual judging schools, and continued studies at national Holstein judging training sessions. His first appearance as ring official was in the late 1960s, for Dauphin County's annual Holstein show. Cornman now judges up to six shows a year, and in 1985 officiated at the Eastern Pennsylvania Holstein Championship show at Kutztown.

But, for many years prior, Creedin Cornman's cheerful countenance could regularly be found at the front of a cow in the lineup of black and whites in numerous local, regional and state shows. "Show fever" is almost inbred in the family, although his father, Clarence Cornman Sr., preferred exhibiting his prized Berkshire hogs.

That regularly posed a problem Farm Show week for the Cornman family, since hogs and dairy cattle shows were both scheduled for Tuesdays. Clarence Cornman Sr., however, always encouraged his children to show. Creedin, for instance, began at age 9 at the halter of a little heifer taken to a local show solely for the use of the rookie.

"I was clean down on the end of the line," he chuckles, "but I thought I was in first place." Undaunted, Cornman had by then already caught the cattle show "bug," shared by his late brother, Paul, and brother Clarence Jr., a Holstein classifier who generally arranges his schedule to lend a hand during show activities.

It was project animals, given by his father for help on the family's farm, and earned through FFA calf chains, that formed the foundation for the Justa Beauty

herd when Creedin entered the dairy business on his own.

His wife, Ellen, contributed her three Ayrshire 4-H project cows to the fledgling herd as well, when the couple married on Easter Sunday in 1951. Daughter of a local Guernsey breeder, Ellen had become friends with Cornman when she agreed to help wash his 4-H baby beef one day at the Carlisle Fair.

But soon after the couple began milking cows on his uncle's farm nearby, the Ayrshires departed. Proceeds from their sale went to buy milkers for the remaining herd of Holsteins.

They relocated to their present farm on Lindsey Road in 1952, moved by good friend and fellow Holstein breeder Meryl Sheaffer, "who still does all my trucking," according to Cornman.

Even as a beginning Holstein breeder, Cornman had clearcut intentions on the kind of cattle herd he wanted.

"Dunloggin lines; that was the only breeding I ever believed in at first," Cornman relates

In 1958, he made a bold move to acquire breeding stock of the Dunloggin bloodlines.

Paying a visit to Alpheus Ruth's Vista Grande herd in Berks County, Cornman invested the then tidy sum of \$225 for a three-month calf. Vista Grande Haven Gracious developed into an EX-90-2E who in her 15 years in the herd contributed many daughters, including one that would earn EX-92-5E status.

Even as a heifer, Gracious had so impressed Cornman that he returned to purchase her dam, Vista Grande Admiral Trixie and her sister, Vista Grande Haven Queen. The family proved to be all Cornman had believed. Trixie

became VG-87-GMD and Queen was EX-92-4E when she died at age 17.

Most of the 44 head of registered Holsteins now tied in the tiestalls at Justa Beauty trace back to Trixie, many through her son used in the herd in past years.

Cornman's herd is not one boasting "hot" bull pedigrees, but rather focusing more on maternal strength. Although fat and protein get heavy emphasis in sire selection, close attention is also paid to conformation and type, resulting in a classification BAA of 105.9 on the herd's August 1986 scoring.

Typical of the "comers" in this herd is a favorite heifer, Justa Beauty Trixie Cassi, by Marshfield Elevation Tony. Growthy, dairy and showing lots of promise, she scored GP-83 her first round with the classifier. And, except for a few head purchased recently by daughter Sharon and her husband Guy, only about a half-dozen animals have ever been added to the Justa Beauty herd from outside.

"Having the highest herd average has never been one of my goals," Cornman reflects on his DHIA rolling figures of 17,000 milk and 570 fat. "High herd averages are expensive."

Instead, he prefers to stress longevity and durability in cows, adhering to the proven fat-boosting ration based on plenty of dry, baled hay, minimal corn silage and a grain mix ground at a nearby local feed mill. Except for the concentrate, feedstuffs are all home grown.

High nitrates in the local water supplies, however, are of concern to Cornman, since they tend to depress fat levels. In response to slowly dropping herd test average

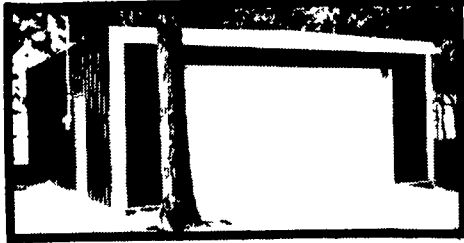


After more than 35 years of milking the Justa Beauty cows, Creedin Cornman has turned most of the herd responsibility over to son Steve, allowing him more time for judging.

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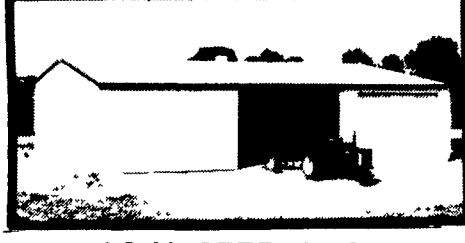
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