Franklin Holstein Field Day Hears Remsburg

BY BONNIE BRECHBILL Franklin Co. Correspondent

must have the package of production, pedigree and type put together in your cow, then the photograph wraps it up," Jack Remsburg told farmers attending the Franklin County Holstein Day at the James and Nina Burdette farm July 30. "Your cow should look as good as she does when she goes into the show ring," he continued. "If a wife sent her husband to get his picture taken, she would be sure he shaved, took a shower, and got a haircut. You only get what the camera sees."

Remsburg, from Middletown, MD, is a nationally known professional cow photographer. He stated that there are two reasons for a farmer to have pictures taken of his cows - to improve the farmer's business and for glamour.

From a business point of view, photographs must work in the farmer's favor economically, whether they are for a paid ad in a magazine or to be handed out personally at sales and shows. Photographs are a must in advertising, Remsberg said. "You stop first to look at the ads that have pictures."

Taking photographs of cows requires time and expense. The farmer must spend time getting the animal ready, then bring people in to help set her up for the picture. He must pay the photographer for his time and work. For these reasons, Remsberg does not push his services — "the farmer has to want to do this," he said. "But," he emphasized, "with that picture, you can do more advertising per dollar spent than with just words. And of course you can re-use that picture many times."

He believes that if the cows the farmer has photographed do not make him money, he either did not use the picture correctly in the ad, or he should not have taken the picture in the first place.

Pictures taken for glamour will not necessarily make money for the farmer, but will be cherished by him and his family in years to come. 4-H record books, pictorial contests, and photos for the family

album come under this category. Drawing from his 31 years of MERCERSBURG - "You professional experience, Remsberg gave the audience some tips on how they can do their own cow photography. "The three important elements are correct focus, proper exposure, and good composition," he said. "You don't have to have a lot of expensive equipment."

> While the cow does not have to be broke to lead, she must be tied with her head up for a few hours a day for several days before the photo session. "She must raise her head when you snap the halter gently," he said.

"Avoid having any buildings in the background. Try to have no horizontal lines at all. Anything horizontal is straighter than the cow's top line, and she will not look straight," he continued. "You have to learn all this through your eyes - you can't get it from reading a book."

After relating the difficulties he had when taking pictures of bulls he said, "I never criticize a picture of an animal unless I helped to take it, because some animals are so hard to work with."

He used one of Burdette's cows to demonstrate how to set up a cow for a picture. The points he especially watches are:

- have the shoulders higher than rump

show rear and fore udder

be aware of where the sun is - have cow's tail pulled down

- so it looks natural - back hip not showing
 - --- ears forward
 - helpers out of picture

- camera level with middle of COW

cow's feet set correctly

Hosts James and Nina Burdette have lived at Windy-Knoll View Farm for 13 years. They farm 240 acres and milk 60 cows, eight of which are classified excellent. Their BAA is 106.4, the highest in Franklin County. The Burdettes have two sons, Justin, 8 and Kyle, 4.

Activities for Holstein Day included the judging of three cow classes — two-year olds, three-

Jack Remsberg demonstrates how to set up a cow for a picture, assisted by several members of the Franklin County Holstein Club.

year olds, and aged cows. Remsberg served as official judge. Winners in the Senior Division of the judging contest were Brad Beidel, Dennis Bricker, Wayne Beidel, Wayne Hall, Rodney Crider, Roger Crider, Mark Naugle. Dale Rice, Dwaine Brechbill, Harold Crider, Greg Paylor, Bob Mellott, and Darlene Meyers. Junior winners (16 and under) were Jenny Gloss, April Gelsinger, Chris Reichard, Billy Hall, Carey Martin, Corey Meyers, and Matthew Martin.

Milk and cheese for the event were donated by Don Upperman Surge dealership. Ice cream was provided by Franklin Feed and Supply Company.

Purcell, Good

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After receiving her degree in June of 1986, Pat became a correspondent and feature writer for the Daily Local News, West Chester, Pa. This daily has a circulation of approximately 38,000.

For Pat, pursuing a career in agricultural journalism seems to be the best way to blend a love of writing and farming.

An announcement was made this week that Lou Ann Good, Manheim, has been appointed staff writer for Lancaster Farming newspaper. A well-known, local writer of more than a hundred inspirational and feature articles. Lou Ann has just published her first book entitled, "Bible Readings For Office Workers." The book, published by Augsburg Publishing House, uses a daily inspirational theme and turns every day situations into food for thought. Lou Ann brings a vast experience of home and family interviewing experience to Lancaster Farming and has won writing awards in children's literature, personal experience and feature article writing.

She is a board member of St. Davids Christian Writers Association at Eastern College at St. Davids. Lou Ann was the executive secretary for the Church of the Brethren Youth Service and has served as a daily newspaper correspondent.

She developed and directed a program to teach inner-city mothers sewing, craft and cooking skills and worked as an occupational therapy assistant at Brooklane where she scheduled patients for classes and therapeutic interaction skills.

Lou Ann graduated from Garden Spot High School and has completed numerous writing and business courses. She is the editorial assistant for The Connection, a church newspaper, and serves as publicist for several nonprofit organizations.

She enjoys bike riding, camping and boating with husband Parke and four children, Perry, 19, Kent, 18, Todd, 15 and Tina, 12.



