ABS Sire News

Transmitting ability is one-half of each animal's Breeding Value or Genetic Merit. An animal's Breeding Value is the sum of the genetic effect of all of the genes received from both parents.

Since offspring receive a different sample of genes from each parent, transmitting ability measures the average effect of the genes transmitted by a parent to its offspring. The Breeding Value of an individual can be estimated as the sum of both parents' Transmitting Abilities or one-half of both parents' Breeding Values.

Mogens Stendal, Executive Secretary of the Danish Jersey Cattle Society, makes the following observations about TOP BRASS daughters in Denamrk:

- TOP BRASS has the highest breeding index for protein yield ever achieved by a Jersey sire in Denmark (at 93% repeatability).

The Danish Jersey breed is world renowned for protein production and takes considerable pride in the 3.94% protein average for the breed. At 93% repeatability 29 J2793 TOP BRASS has the highest breeding index for protein ever achieved by a Jersey sire in Denmark.

Genetic research clearly indicates that selection for high milk production will produce more protein than selection for high percent protein test.

New Percentile Ranking

Beginning with the July 1989 sire and cow evaluations, the percentile ranking will be based on PTA protein dollars, which considers the production of milk, fat, and protein.

Two key points can be drawn from these statistics. First of all, it again demonstrates the superiority of U.S. dairy genetics as compared to the genetics available from Canada (difference = 809pounds). Secondly, it shows that the best available U.S. sired bulls are from the U.S. A.I. organizations.

Cow Longevity

Researcher, Brian Van Doormaal studied the length of time a cow stayed in its herd of origin in Canada and reached the following conclusions:

1. Milk, fat yield, protein yield, and final classification score are of equal importance in predicting the length of herd life in herds of purebred breeders.

2. Type traits had much less influence on longevity in commercial herds.

3. Mammary traits had the strongest relationship to longevity followed by feet and leg traits.

4. Stature, size, and rump traits are not good predictors of longevity.

July 1989 Calving Ease Changes

The 1989 Calving Ease Summary has arrived. 1,448 new bulls were summarized for the first time and 12,868-bulls were resummarized. The resummarized bulls had remarkable stability in their summaries. 12,613 (98%) changed by one point or less in percent difficult births. Only 255 bulls changed by more than one point and only 33 bulls changed by more than three points in comparison with the 1988 summary. All of the bulls that changed by more than 3 points had fewer than 75 calvings in their 1988 summary. Bulls with a large number of calvings changed very little in their evaluations. Dairymen can have confidence in evaluations of calving ease when a bull has an adequate number of calvings. ABS considers evaluations on less than 200 calvings to be preliminary. Calving ease ratings are obtained by statistical analysis of calving scores recorded by dairymen in ABS progeny test herds.

Results From Mexico

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	Number	Average	PDM					
Category	of Bulls	Kilograms						
All bulls	638	124	273					
Bulls with U.S.								
registration number	336	302	666					
Bulls with Canadian								
registration number	117	-65	-143					
Bulls with Mexican								
registration number	185	-80	-176					
Canadian bulls with			- • •					
U.S. sire	38	-4	-9					
Mexican bulls with								
U.S. sire	113	-3	-7					
All bulls with a U.S. sir	e 487	207	456					
All bulls with a								
Canadian sire	138	-135	-298					

Ross Appointed Interim RCMA Head

BATAVIA, NY — Ed Anna Anna served two years as

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resigned from the position of executive director and general manager of the Regional Cooperative Marketing Agency (RCMA), effective August 11, 1989. Carmen L. Ross was appointed interim executive director by RCMA's Board of Directors during the board's August meeting.

Ross brings 31 years of experience in the dairy industry to the director's position. He formerly was employed with the New York-New Jersey Market Administrator's Office, where he was chief auditor in charge of audit progarms and enforcement. RCMA's director during the formative period when RCMA expanded. He cited personal reasons for his resignation.

RCMA now serves 22,000 dairy farmers in 11 Northeastern states. RCMA collects, from the marketplace, a Class 1 fluid milk differential over the minimum Class 1 price set by the government, and RCMA returns this money in the form of "over-order premiums" to all its farmer-members. For the period from September 1987 through May 1989, RCMA has paid ou \$66 million to its member farmers.

* FULL LINE PARTS DEPARTMENT * WE SELF, SERVICE & INSTALL E/HERR EQUIPMENT, INC. 14 Herrville Rd., Willow Street, PA 17584 Phone 717-464-3321 or Toll Free: 800-732 0053 826

