

Weaver Brothers

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can pick out--something that can tell you what kind of breeding you have and which bull will work well in that cow family."

The brothers do see some conflict between breeding for cow families and breeding for the index numbers assigned by the registered breed associations.

"I wish they would alter their criteria for index numbers a little,"

Landis said. "If they could find a way to factor in longevity, it would be good. A lot of high index cows are gone after two or three years. Some of the cows out of low indexed bulls milk well and last a long time, but they have no value in the bull market.

"It seems unfair, but right now, if you are going to merchandise, you are going to need to go with high index numbers."

Actually, the Weavers like to stress cow families with high index numbers.

"We may sacrifice a little index at times," Herb said. "But if you can keep the type up, in the long run, you'll be ahead. Some guys breed a cow one time and they have a bull mother, but if you can look back several generations you will get a bull mother anyway, plus, you have some hope for longevity."

As for BST, "I don't like it," Herb said. And Landis agreed.

"For the Holstein breed, I think it's an unfair way, if you want to prove bulls. If a guy has an interest in a bull, he can give BST to all the bull's daughters and not the herd-mates," Herb said. "Several pounds of milk per day doesn't sound like much, but it can make a big difference on the bull's proof.

"Commercial dairymen may like to use it more because they are striving to just get milk out of the cow. The breeder is more interested in longevity. He wants the cow to last a long time."

The Weavers farm 200 acres, some of it rented alfalfa ground. Their 75 cows have a rolling herd average of 21,000m 81 lf 695f. The latest classification shows, 2 EX, 16 VG, 37 GP, and 10 G. They flush about five cows each year for embryo work. Last month one cow that was flushed gave them 16



Tower-Front Bell Elaine, VG 86, was recently honored by the Pennsylvania Holstein Association and the Lancaster County Holstein Association for her production topping record of 38,600m 1250f 1260p. Bell Elaine had top production of 141 lbs per day and milked over 100 lbs per day for eight months.



Linqenda Rotate Natlie, EX90, 30,000m, 1200f, was recently flushed and 16 embryos were recovered for transplant work.



Wea-Land Chairman Lorie (Twin), VG 87, produced 5y, 27,000m, 1100f, 950p.

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good embryos. They consign animals to promotional sales, have an agreement with Stonehurst Farms at Strasburg and last April sold a red cow in New York for \$6,600.

The secret for high production is to do all the little things right.

"You need to have genetics," Landis said. "But then you need management too. It seems like everything together makes the cow milk."

The Wea-Land cows have a total mixed ration in front of them at all times and a top dressing is given three times per day. Forage samples are pulled several times each month to keep exact information available for feed ingredient needs.

Heifer management is called "the most important step on the farm". Because you save money and because the first-calf heifers seem to milk better, they are bred to freshen when they are 24 months

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