

# Holstein Breeders Highlight Year

## Animal Rights Issues

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Owen said, "Every building on the farm would have needed to be remodeled."

"As late as the day before the vote, polls showed the referendum would pass," Owen said. "The resulting defeat by 71 percent to 29 percent was a landslide large enough that the referendum cannot immediately be repeated. But a study group was introduced by the animal rights groups and this study is still going on."

A veal operation and several dairy farms went out of business over the pressures involved in the referendum. They just gave up.

"The ease with which changes can be made in the atmosphere for animal agriculture that can be done without the democratic process is frightening," Owen said. "The emotionally charged referendum approach is backed by misleading photographs and artwork. The eventual impact of similar battles on the farm economy and cheap food to consumers should also be considered. The real need is education."

Detwiller said the animal welfare act covers animal housing, protection from elements, separation of incompatible species, sanitation, ventilation, feeding, watering, veterinarian care, and transportation.

"These are common sense things that farmers realize are in their best interest," Detwiller said. "We think government should be in the business of research to improve the production procedures and education. There is a lack of

information on the behavioral needs of farm animals."

Hartsock put on different hats to indicate character roles of animal rights groups to stimulate discussion.

"It would be a real mistake to catalog all animal rightists in one category," Hartsock said. "One group believes you don't need meat and animal products to have nutritional diet. They believe you should give the same consideration to take an animal's life as you do to take a human life. They want to put farmers out of business."

"The animal protectionists think it's OK to eat meat but they want animals to be well cared for."

Hartsock asked that farmers not think that everyone who is asking questions is an enemy. They want to know their food is produced in a safe manner "just like you want to know that your automobile was not built with a faulty gas tank that may explode and injure you."

In summary, Wurster said that with all the discussion, it should be noted that the panel topic was true. Holstein breeders really are supporters of animal welfare.

The convention continued through the banquet on Thursday night. The ladies program and the convention sale was held on Friday and the awards breakfast Saturday morning.

Other Holstein convention coverage can be found in this issue and is scheduled to continue next week with business meeting highlights, women's convention activities, and the sale results.

EVERETT NEWSWANGER  
Managing Editor

READING (Berks Co.)— The highlight of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association's year came this week at the annual convention held in the Sheraton Inn. Actually, the climax really came at the opening night banquet when two veteran Holstein breeders and a young farm couple were given the association's highest honors. Inducted into the Hall of Fame were Kenneth Boyer, Selinsgrove, and Robert Pegan, Cochranton.

Boyer has been involved in agriculture his entire life. He has farmed in Selinsgrove, Snyder County since 1942. He is a graduate of Selinsgrove High School and the Pennsylvania State University.

Boyer has served the Pennsylvania Holstein Association in



Kenneth Boyer



Wayne Harpster, president, left, gives the Young Holstein Breeder Award to Vincent and Juliet Wagner.

many ways. He has served as Snyder County club director, vice president and president. He has served as a state director, executive committee and state treasurer. He has also served on a number of state committees including membership along with serving on convention planning committees.

Boyer and his wife Thelma work in partnership with their son-in-law Charles Benner and granddaughter Denise Wetzel and her husband Tim on the farm milking some 80 Registered Holsteins.

Boyer has been very active in many community and dairy related organizations. He helped organize the first Pennsylvania artificial breeding cooperative. He served on the PA Farmers Association board of directors, Union Production Credit board of directors and he has held all offices on

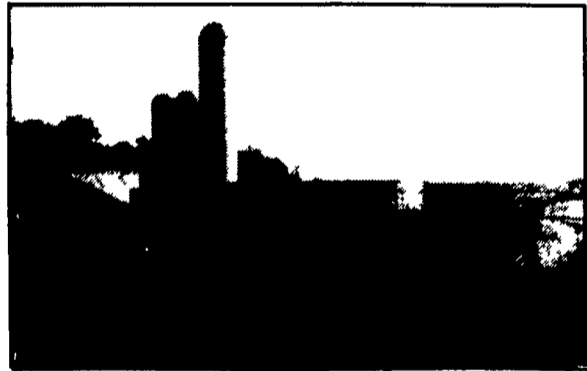
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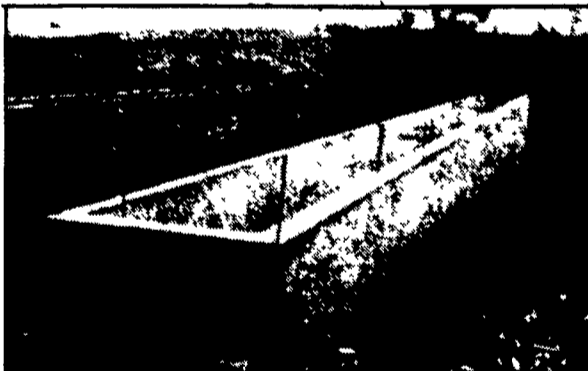
Robert Pegan

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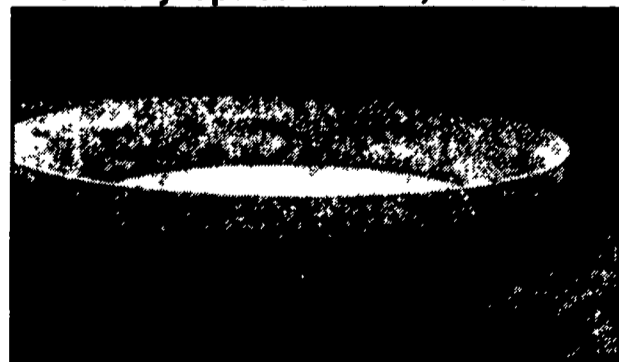
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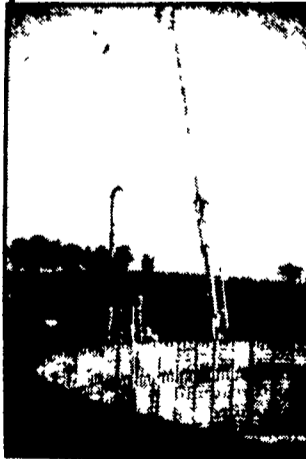


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