

LPI Predicts Cow's Long-Term Success

CLAYTON, Mo. — Canadian dairy researchers and the breeding industry have developed a unique bull-rating scale known as the Lifetime Profitability Index, or LPI.

Introduced in the January genetic evaluation run in 1991, LPI was created to give dairymen and breeders an easy way to choose the best sires.

According to Dr. Jack Dekkers, a dairy specialist at the University of Guelph, Ontario, "LPI is a measuring criterion that puts focus on the most profitable available bulls.

It's an effective initial guideline for selection. Then the producer can make a specific choice from within that group of high-LPI sires."

LPI attempts to rank sires on the average lifetime profit potential of their daughters, based on the two factors that have been shown to have the largest impact on profitability: production and herd life.

LPI is weighted more heavily on production, Dekkers said, because it's the major factor contributing to dairy profits.

But to maximize the lifetime profitability of a cow, she needs to stay in the herd for several years. Even the most productive cows aren't worth much if they last only a couple of lactations. That's why LPI considers potential herd life in determining a cow's eventual worth.

However, since there are no direct measures of herd life, the sire's proofs for certain type traits are incorporated. "Here some assumptions are made in the LPI formula," Dekkers said, "but past research has found a positive relationship between these particular type traits and a cow's longevity."

Current and future research will attempt to determine the importance of type traits more clearly, as well as that of other traits, such as calving ease and milking speed.

LPI considers a cow's final class, feet and legs, mammary system, and capacity — all elements which can affect a cow's ability to stand up to the demands of calving and milking, year after year.

An LPI score of 1,200 or better represents a truly exceptional sire, but even bulls with scores in the 800-1,000 range can be counted on to contribute to the long-term profitability of a herd.

"We want genetic progress to improve longevity, while keeping the emphasis on high production," Dekkers said.

Dairymen looking for sires that combine a profitable balance of good type and production volume can use LPI as an indicator. For more information about the rating system, or Canadian sires in general, interested dairymen or breeders should contact a representative of Semex USA.

Judging Team First In Northeast



UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — The Penn State Student Soil Judging Team placed first among five colleges in the Northeast Collegiate Soil Judging Contest at Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, Pa., recently.

The team now qualifies for the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest to be held at the University of California at Berkeley and Davis in April 1992.

Team members pictured left to right are Thomas McConnell, William Packer, Jason Fellon, Mary Carpenter, Jeffrey Kochosky, Brandon Dennis, Frederick Schoenagel and faculty adviser Raymond Shipp, associate professor of Agronomy in Penn State's College of Agriculture.

Franklin Dairy Day

CHAMBERSBURG (Franklin Co.) — Franklin County Extension Dairy Day will be held on Friday, January 3 at Kauffman's Community Center. Program topics include protein and energy nutrition, dairy situation and policy update, staph mastitis control, and summer cow comfort.

Extension specialists from Penn State include Robert Yonkers and Larry Hutchinson and multicounty agricultural engineer Dan McFarland. Dr. Charles Stallings, extension dairy nutritionist, Virginia Tech, will be this year's guest speaker.

Agribusiness firms will co-sponsor the educational meeting and have exhibits and representatives present. Area dairyman are invited to arrive at 9 a.m. to visit the exhibits and have refreshments. The formal program begins at 9:30 a.m. with adjournment scheduled for 2:30 p.m.

For further information, contact Philip Wagner at the Franklin County Extension Office, (717) 263-9226.

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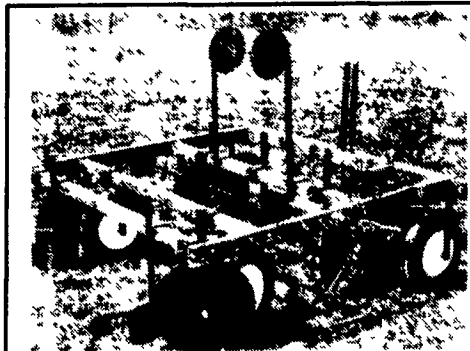
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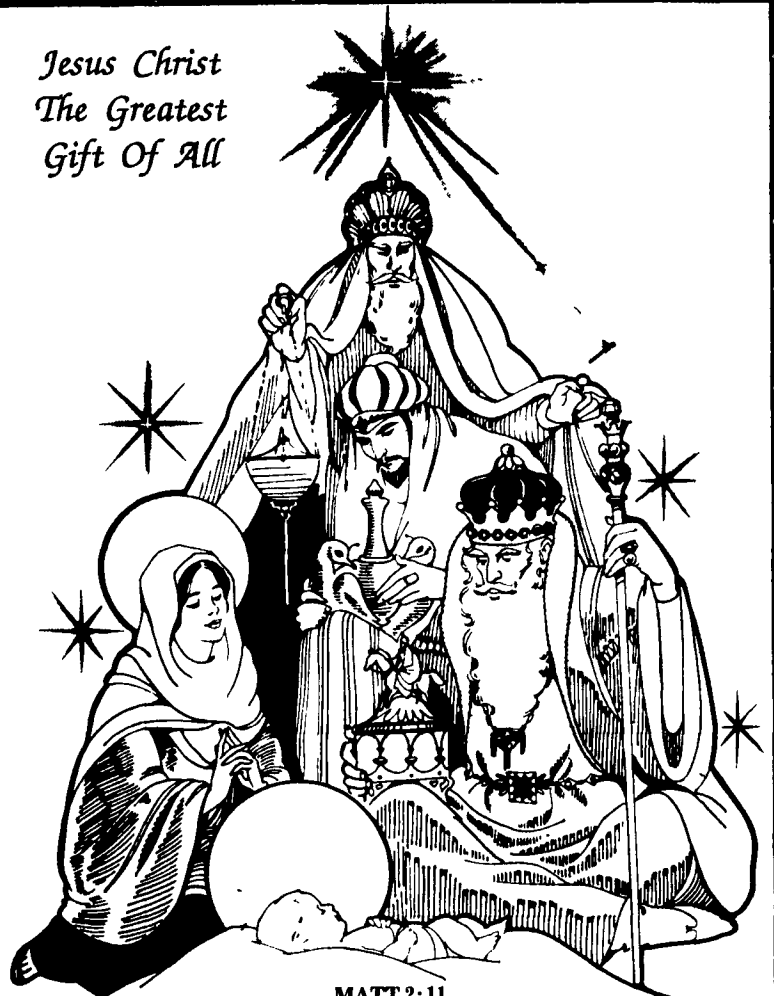
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And when they were come unto the house, they saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and fell down and worshipped him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

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