

Oakenbound Farms No. 8 In Nation

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growing calves and helping with making haylage.

Salesmen and dairy industry representatives visit often, which is generally taken as a sign that the farm is well operated.

There's a male Golden Retriever dog, its chin and muzzle hairs greying with age, that greets visitors and sleeps on the floor of the milk house office, or in the stanchion stalls when the cows are out. In the summer, the cool concrete

beneath the milk tank is a favorite snoozing spot for the dog, Richard Jr. said.

It is a family farm in every sense, yet it is a progressive farm. Nelson has applied himself to developing a strong understanding of genetics.

The 39-year-old does all the A.I. reproductive work on the herd. He buys the semen he wants to use and keeps it at the farm.

His handi-work and their use of businesses such as Em-Tran, a Middletown embryo transplant

and reproductive operation, have enabled them to breed top stock.

He flushes some of his good cows, markets heifers and embryos and bulls.

Recently, one of his home-bred projects, Oakenbound Southwind Jaguar-ET, was one of four Pennsylvania dairy cattle bulls entered into a proving program of an artificial insemination cooperative. Jaguar was the embryo transfer result of a cross between his now-deceased Excellent 91 Oakenbound Tradition Jackie and the



From the left, Richard Troutman Jr. and Nelson Troutman show a young bull calf that has already been targeted for purchase by an artificial insemination business.

Southwind bull.

The dam carried a production record in excess of 26,500 pounds of milk, 999 pounds of fat and 780 pounds of protein and had an Excellent mammary.

She also bore daughters and there's at least one in the string of 92-milking cows that should go Excellent.

And there are more bull calves at the 127-acre farm that are targeted for entry into AI proving programs.

As long as they don't test positive for BLAD.

BLAD is the latest concern in cattle breeding. And it is a concern among breeders that some dairy-men may not understand what it is.

BLAD is an acronym for bovine leucocyte adhesion deficiency. It is probably the most recent "disease" discovered in dairy cattle.

The majority of cattle with BLAD do not show it, because it is not a disease really, it is a defective gene. A recessive genetic gene.

Most of the cattle with BLAD are carriers. If a cow carrier and a bull carrier are matched up, one out of four offspring (straight Mendelian principle) are expected to actually have the disability.

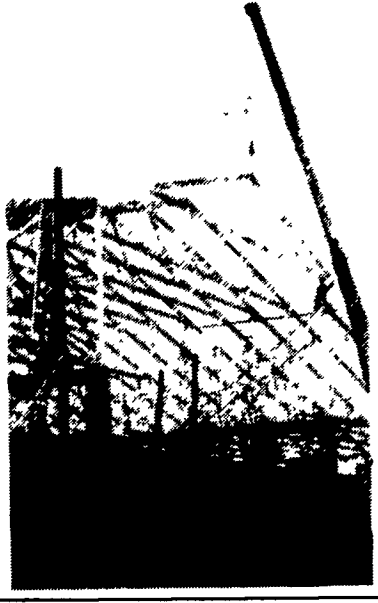
The disability is an inability to fight bacterial infections, because white blood cells can't function properly.

Industry advice has been to (Turn to Page A25)



Oakenbound Tradition Jackie was a homebred Excellent 91 with an excellent mammary. Her genetics continue through breeding stock from the Oakenbound Farm in Berks County.

WOOD TRUSS

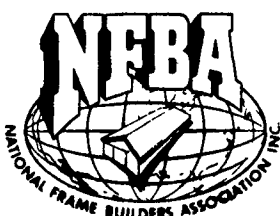


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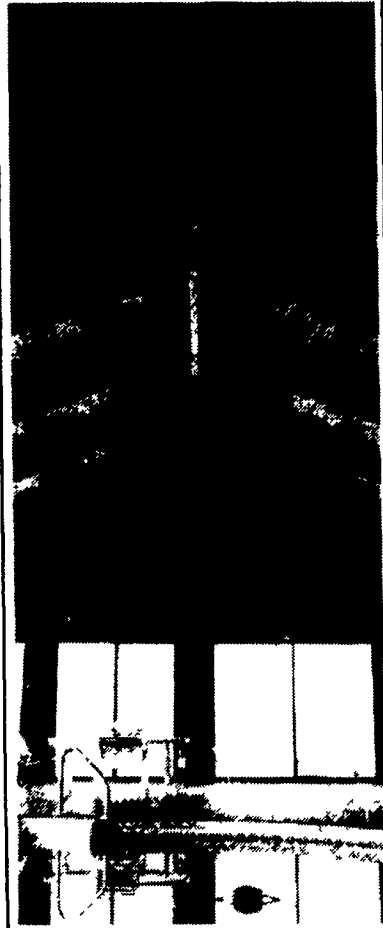
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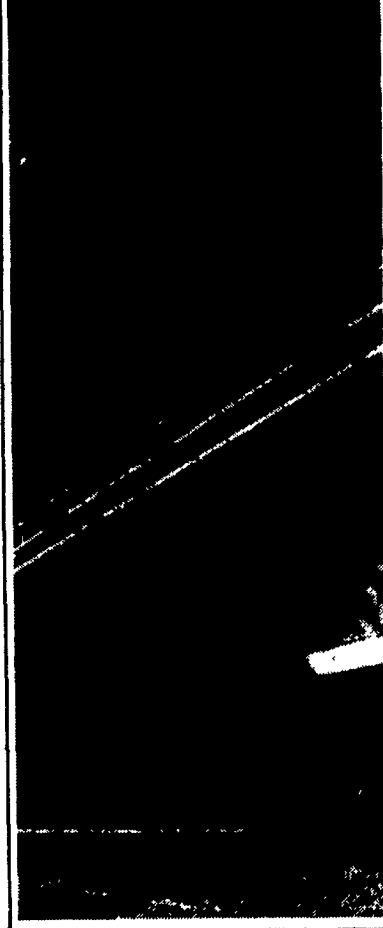
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