

Breeding For Solids

HUNTINGDON (Huntingdon Co.) — Some Pennsylvania dairy producers are now being paid for both the solids-not-fat (SNF) and milkfat components in their milk.

This primarily affects dairy herds in the southeastern and south central areas of the state.

According to Larry Specht, Penn State Extension specialist, herdowners are now asking if they

should incorporate selection for non-fat solids in their breeding program.

Non-fat solids are made up of the protein, lactose and mineral content of milk. Protein and lactose values can be determined by the use of standard infra-red equipment used by most present-day testing labs. However, most commercial laboratories do not

test individual farm samples for lactose. The ash (mineral) content is usually estimated at 0.7 percent since the normal range is from 0.5 to 0.9 percent for most cows milk.

One problem that arises in selecting for SNF is that DHIA labs over most of the country do not measure and thus cannot report SNF values for individual cows and herds. Consequently, the

sire and cow evaluations produced by the USDA Animal Improvement Programs Lab (AIPL) twice a year do not have SNF values.

At one time, the USDA animal evaluation programs did make available either solids-not-fat or protein values. However, by 1987 the number of cows with SNF values had fallen to less than 10 percent of the cows on test and SNF evaluations were discontinued.

While we cannot select for SNF directly, there is an economic index calculated by USDA-AIPL that will work very well. This is the Predicted Transmitting Ability for Milk, Fat and Protein Dollars. It is abbreviated to: PTA M, F, P\$. This value comes very close to being a "perfect" index for ranking sires and cows on SNF values. It is fortunate that a new deve-

lopment in milk pricing can be accommodated by a procedure that is already in place.

One other important point to remember is that the plan in effect in Order 4 pays for pounds of components produced rather than paying on a base price plus differentials for the percentages of a component(s) in the milk.

Sire choices need to be based on the PTA's for pounds of protein and/or other components instead of on their PTA milkfat or protein percentages.

Milk, Fat and Protein Dollars (M,F,P\$) will work very well as the major criteria for decisions as to which sires to use and which cows to breed to become the mothers of the next generation.

It's Easy To Obtain EPD Information

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Many cattle farmers have started using expected progeny differences (EPDs) to select breeding stock.

EPDs are only one of many management tools being implemented to help cut costs as market competition stiffens and consumers demand leaner meat at lower prices.

EPDs can be defined as the difference in performance expected from progeny of a sire compared to progeny of another sire.

This method of sire selection is practically standard operating procedure in many registered cattle operations, but how can it benefit all cattle farmers?

"Using EPD information can be the basis for steady herd improvement," said Dr. John Hough, director of education and research at the American Polled Hereford Association.

"We're finding many cow/calf operators are requesting annual sire summaries to select bulls and/or semen to optimize the economically beneficial traits needed in their herds," Hough said. "Once EPD values and their cost-effectiveness are understood, a sire summary can be one of the most effective tools to assist in a herd improvement program."

Sire summaries are easily obtained from breed associations, which also supply them to land-grant universities and extension centers. Representatives from breed associations, county and state extension agents, and state beef cattle specialists can explain how to use the summaries. In fact, breed associations and extension specialists offer educational programs to help increase understanding of EPDs.

"If you decide to incorporate EPD information into your herd management program, it is very important you do not compare EPD information across breeds," Hough said. "EPDs can only be compared within a single breed."

Characteristics that can be selected from EPDs include birth weight, weaning weight, milk production, yearling weight, and scrotal circumfer-

ence. Each EPD has been assigned an accuracy value which can help you better determine the reliability of

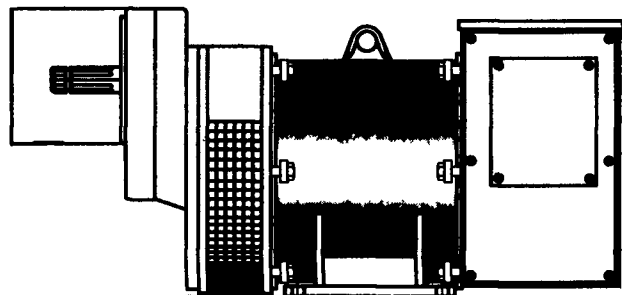
the EPD estimates. By incorporating EPD information into your sire selection program, you can end up

with greater trait predictability from your herd and potentially greater profits from higher-quality cattle.



DYNA-TECH INDUSTRIES
602 E. EVERGREEN ROAD
LEBANON, PA 17042-7925

SERVICE OUR FIRST CONSIDERATION



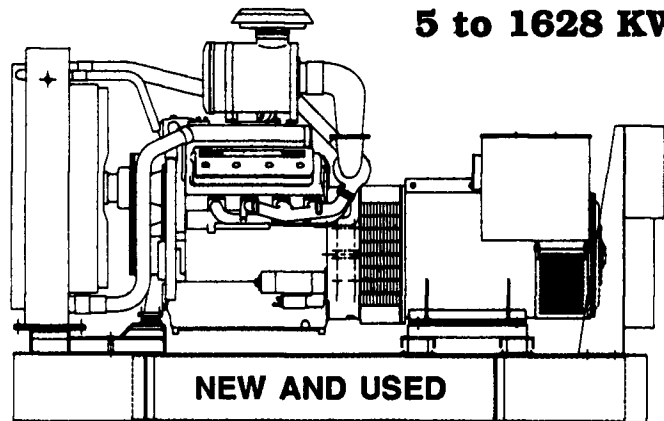
10 TO 150 KW 1800 RPM BRUSHLESS TRACTOR DRIVEN GENERATORS

DISTRIBUTOR FOR



GENERATOR SYSTEMS

5 to 1628 KW



NEW AND USED

**SALES - SERVICE - RENTALS
INSTALLATION**

UPS, UBS AND SURGE PROTECTION

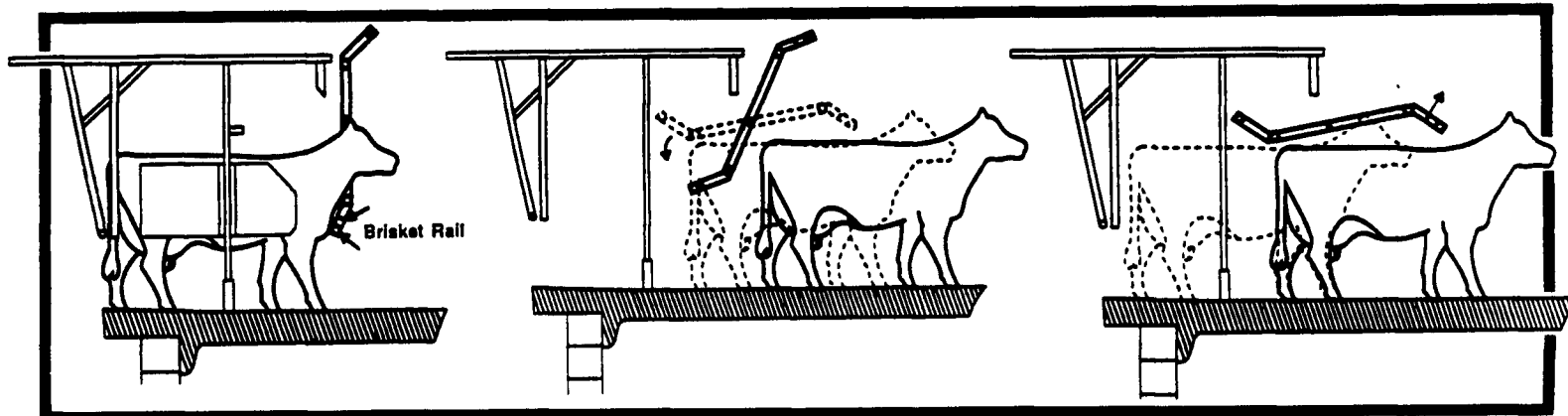
800-779-8809

717-274-8899

FAX 717-274-5334

Reel-Time Rapid Exit Parallel Milking Parlor

A true leading edge Rapid Exit Milking Parlor



Normal Milking Position

Brisket Roll locks cows in proper position for milking. The Brisket Roll can be rotated clockwise to snug the cows up against the rump roll.

Release Position

Cows are released by rotating Bricket Rail away from front of cow. All the cows can exit at once by moving straight forward.

Exit Position

As cows move forward, the Reel gently nudges them forward and separates them from the next string of cows to be milked.

**We Can Help Improve
Your Dairy Business...**



**See Your
Bou-Matic
Dealer
Today**

**MENDENHALL
DAIRY SUPPLY**
Brookville, PA
814-849-5539

**JONES-DAIRY
SERVICE**
Medford, NJ
609-267-0198

**W and J
DAIRY SALES**
Oxford, PA
717-529-2569

**TRI-STATE
FARM,
AUTOMATION**
Hagerstown, MD
301-416-7340

**PRINGLE
FEED STORE**
Greenville, PA
412-588-7950

**K&K
AGRI SERVICE**
Carlisle, PA
717-249-1195

**McNEAL FARM
SERVICE**
Towanda, PA
717-364-5460