

Howard Named

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four-day national convention. In what may be one of the most significant acts, the delegates to the convention also approved creating a second national herd book which would allow for the registration of grade Holsteins. It would allow recognition of animals who have been bred by animals outside the breed association's recognized purebred pedigree.

The move was seen as beneficial for two reasons: it would allow for some grade animals to eventually be recognized for the traits they carry; and it would also serve as a bank for registration of Holsteins whose lineage falls outside of the United States.

Until the second book becomes active, those who seek to use genetics supplied by the rest of the world herd are not permitted to register the animals as purebred, even though the pedigree of the imported strains is recognized in its home country.

Also announced during the convention, the restructuring of the national association's staff has been completed to reduce operating costs. And programs instituted since last year have resulted in large member savings, while reducing income to the organization.

The election of Howard was significant, however, because it represents a basic difference in philosophy and vision toward the breed organization and its role in guiding the development of the breed.

In the June issue of Holstein World, the national organization's official publication, the opinions of the candidates were printed. Howard said he disagreed with some of the views expressed.

"As much as a year or so ago, people had urged me to run for this position because John Cope was to go out," Howard said Thursday. Cope, from Grantham, was one of four directors whose terms expired.

"I gave it some thought, and decided I would make myself avail-

able," Howard said. "Then, in February, in our state convention . . . two of us expressed interest in running. The vote was a tie and the state president broke the tie.

"At the time, I felt it best to step aside, even though he (Burket) made his intention clear that he was going to run even without the endorsement.

"Then when the (Holstein) World came out with interviews of candidates and positions, I began getting phone calls from people in and out of Pennsylvania. People were concerned about the views expressed and urged me to reconsider. I really didn't think I would," Howard said.

According to the 39-year-old dairyman, he decided to go out to the national convention, as he has planned, and not worry about the directorship.

"Out there people were putting more and more pressure on me and I guess I have a significant difference in philosophy as to the future direction of our association," Howard said.

"I felt that the people needed to choose. With only four candidates (for four positions), there was no choice. So I thought I should run.

"It may not have been the easiest thing for me to do, but I felt it was the right thing to do," Howard said.

Howard, who operates Howcrest Holsteins with his wife Susan, milks about 45 registered Holsteins with rolling herd production at 24,000 pounds of milk and 900 pounds of fat. His herd has a BAA of 107.2 percent.

A Penn State University dairy science graduate, Howard has been active in the state association, receiving honors for the last three years and being named Outstanding Young Holstein Breeder both in the state and nationally in 1990.

During the convention, after president Carl Butler introduced the existing candidates, he opened the floor to anyone else interested in seeking a seat. That's when

Howard spoke up. After introducing himself, Howard talked about the differences between his views and other views.

"I said I'm 39 years old and, because the Holstein business is the center of my life for now and years to come, I have an intense interest in the direction and future of the breed.

"After reading the candidate interviews in the June World, and also at the strong urging of many respected members from both within Pennsylvania and around the country, I have decided to reconsider my candidacy for director," he told the delegates.

"I believe I can bring to the board the representation of a large and very important segment of our membership — that is, the active family farmer with his neck on the line who has a family to raise and a debt load to service and still milks the cows everyday," Howard said.

Then he talked about the need for communication between directors and members, and his views about the association, both its cows and people.

About cows, Howard said, "I think we need to continually monitor our genetic programs to be sure

we are developing cows that are truly the most profitable milk producers, not only in one lactation, but in her lifetime."

And as far as people, "I think we need to remember that the association is not in Brattleboro (Vermont). It's in the farms of the members who elected us delegates, who, as we meet today, are back home using the services of this association and whose business will be affected by the decisions we make."

John said the response to his positions were well received.

He also said that being an active family farmer will not interfere with his duties as director.

"When we started farming, we made a commitment that we won't be tied to cows, and I think we demonstrated that we can make time. We do have very good help available locally. We feel very

comfortable" with the people who operate the farm when the Howards decide they need to get away from the farm, he said.

In fact, the last two years, Howard and his wife and their three children have driven to the national convention, taking two weeks off of the farm each year.

He said also, that with the per diem that the association now pays directors to compensate for some of the cost of serving the association, he would better be able to afford leaving the farm in capable hands.

However, the bottom line, Howard said, is not that he is against any specific person holding office, but that he felt compelled to further what he and others see as the direction of the association.

Basically, the difference in opinion is that some breeders are

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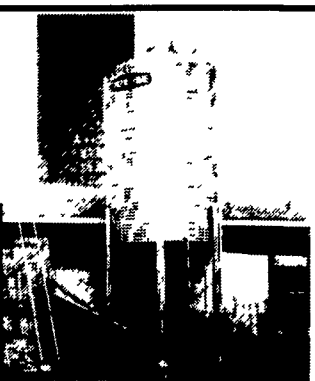
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