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unanimous in giving consent to go ahead with the latter proposal.

One dissenting opinion on the genetics reporting was centered on the process of notification of the owner if his animal is found to be a carrier of undesirable genes.

According to Chuck Allen, operations director for Atlantic Breeders Cooperative, the privilege of information desired by the association should not supercede the normal business relationship between the laboratory and client.

For example, ABC had purchased a bull which on initial pedigree screening, did not appear to have a potential for carrying BLAD. Later, while in isolation and going through the normal, intensive A.I. screening process, a blood sample was sent off to one of two laboratories already under a cooperative agreement with Holstein.

However, according to Allen, Holstein Association received the results before he did, and, before Allen could, the association notified the former owner of the bull that it was a BLAD carrier.

Allen contended that it should have been he, not the association, to receive first notification of the test results; and it is his obligation to inform his client of test results, not the duty of the association.

The directors said they took note of the notification and timing problem.

Another bylaw proposal which received a good deal of conversation was a series of proposed changes to control prefixes and registration.

The proposal approved by most concerned jointly owned female cattle.

The proposal is that "A member of a jointly owned or syndicate owned 'designated' female that becomes sole owner of resulting offspring can be identified as the breeder and owner at time of registration, and thus use their own prefix.

Also, "A form will be provided which all owners of the 'designated' cow must sign. The signed form must be submitted to the Holstein-Freisan Association with a \$50 fee."

The proposal is also that the \$50 covers one 'designated' cow. And there is to be a waiver of the prefix-breeder status by the joint ownership or the syndicate.

A transfer of embryos or natural births from that cow to a member of a jointly-owned cow, continues to be a requirement.

What those attending turned their thumbs down on was a bylaws proposal which would change the prefix-breeder waiver manipulations so that an owner of a cow must pay a \$50 waiver fee to the association if he sells embryos,

or \$25 for natural calves, to someone else who wishes to use their own prefix and/or be listed as the breeder.

Further, a transfer of the embryos or natural calves continues to be a requirement.

It would also make it so that two or more buyers of embryos from one dam can register the resulting calves with their own prefix. The owner of the cow would then have to pay the association \$50 for each prefix transfer.

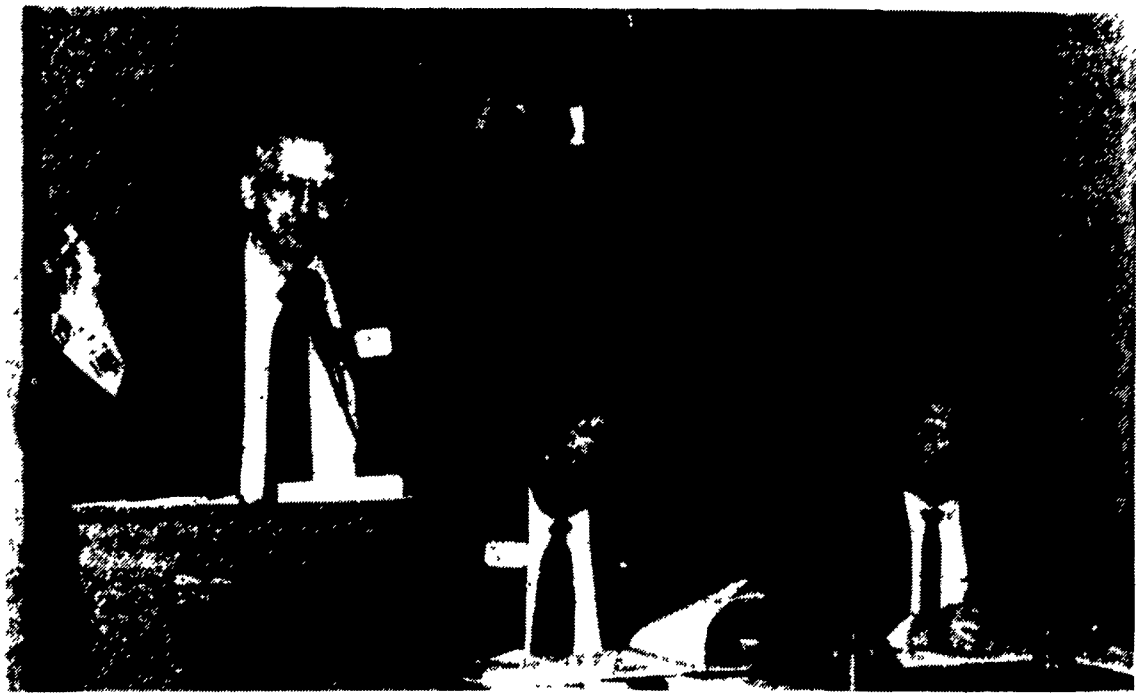
Also drawing some discussion was a series of questions posed to delegates.

Since there has been a perceived problem with some apparently artificially inflated selling prices for Holsteins at sales, some are questioning whether the association should change its positions on allowing minimum bids.

Also posed to the delegates was, if a minimum bid is allow at a sale, at what time should it be announced.

There was no clear consensus on this.

Other items discussed included changes or elimination of the TPI index, since it seems to be rewarding conflicting attributes in bulls and seems to be digressing from the model animal.



Standing at a podium, John Selz, Holstein Association vice president, talks about an experimental cattle identification program which is being researched as a possible alternative to sketching cattle for registration identification. To the right are Pennsylvania's representatives on the Holstein Association's board of directors, Thomas Kelly and John Howard.

• A proposal to drop the bottom 10 percent of cows during classification. Reportedly, this proposal was made because of an estimate 3,700 cows whose registration is cancelled annually on classifica-

tion day because their scores would drag down the herd BAA.

• Sketchless registration is being worked on and a permanent tagging system is being evaluated.

• Increase efforts to cooperate

with other national Holstein associations for the transfer of pedigree and production records.

• Provide a free pedigree with registration, or offer a pedigree at a cost less than \$2.50.

Adams Farmers To Tour Maryland Dairy Farms

GETTYSBURG (Adams Co.) — Adams County dairy farmers can go on a tour of five Maryland dairy farms through a Thursday, April 8 program offered by the county extension service.

Those interested in going on the farm tour should be prepared to board a Wolf's 47-passenger bus at 8 a.m. The bus is to be parked at the North Gettysburg Shopping Center. Participants should park their vehicles in the lot west of Weis Market.

After boarding, the bus is to travel to pick up David Greene, extension agent, in Taneytown, or his alternate.

From there, the first farm stop is at approximately 9:05 a.m., at Unicorn Associates, owned by Cam Davis and Tom Powel, of Union Bridge.

Unicorn Associates currently

has a milking herd of 153 cows of which 143 are registered Holstein cows and the rest grades. They are kept in free stall housing and milking in a herringbone parlor.

Another highlight is that Unicorn currently has the highest producing 3-year-old in the state with 36,380 pounds of milk and 1,272 pounds of fat. The associates have also sold a number of bulls to artificial insemination groups this year.

The next stop, at approximately 10 a.m., is also in the Union Bridge vicinity at the Peace and Plenty Farm, owned by Joe and Nona Schwartzbeck.

Peace and Plenty Farm has 150 registered milking Holsteins with a herd average production of 19,280 pounds of milk, and 747 pounds of fat.

The tour schedule is to arrive at

the third farm, Coldsprings Farm, at about 11 a.m.

Owned by Marlin and Kathy Hoff, the 330-registered Holstein herd operation is located in the New Windsor vicinity. The Hoff's have recently upgraded the facility with a double-20, parallel milking parlor.

A \$5.50 cafeteria lunch is scheduled for 12:15 p.m. at a Brethren Service Center. A tour of the service center is to follow lunch.

The next farm to be visited is Big Spring Farm in the Union Bridge vicinity. Time of arrival is estimated at 1:45 p.m.

Owned by Dennis and Steve Bowman, Big Spring Farm was recently outfitted with a one-of-a-kind, double-12, rapid reel exit herringbone parlor. Their total herd is 370 cows, though they currently milk 290.

The herd is mostly grade, with some registered cattle, and they use their own computer production records, instead of using the services of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

The cattle are housed in a new six-row freestall barn that features a drive-through feeding alley, automatic alley scrapers with gravity flow to manure storage, and automatic sort gates and a hospital area.

From 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., the tour is to visit Windsor Manor farm, in New Windsor.

Owned by Jason and Donna Myers, they milk 60 registered Holsteins in a flat barn with a pipeline and have received the Holstein PBR award the past six years.

For more information, contact the Adams County extension office at (717) 334-6271.

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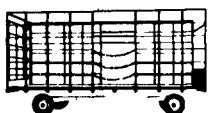
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