## Lancester Farming, Seturday, August 14, 1993-A30

## — Specht, Rogers Team — — On Dairy Program —

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — For the first time, dairy producers can sort sires based on what's really important to them: production, udders, feet, and semen price. New sire indices based on a concept called Expected Net Revenue (ENR) estimate the net dollar return from milk sales above semen price and feed cost per straw of semen.

Designed by Gary W. Rogers, assistant professor in Penn State's Department of Dairy and Animal Science, the indices rank Holstein bulls under three production schemes. Type components remain constant for a particular bull across the indices. This means the bull's ranking in any of the three indices depends on the weight given to particular production components. Dairy Today will publish semi-annually the top 50 bulls nationwide.

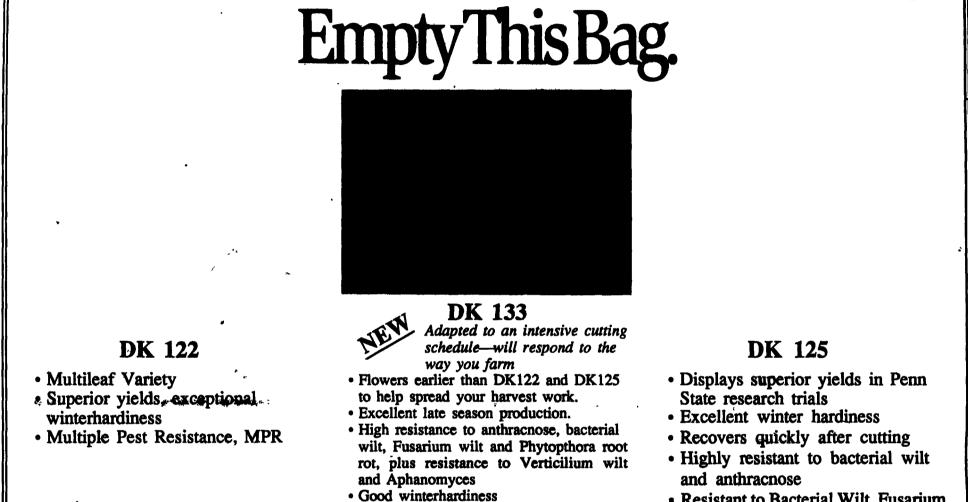
"From a genetic standpoint, indices are at least equal to and usually superior to specific culling levels," says Rogers. "With highperformance bulls, high production can make up for some slightly unfavorable traits."

Commercial dairy producers have looked to Penn State since 1976 for special sire/son evaluation indices, thanks to Larry W. Specht, professor of Dairy Science, who initiated and maintains the listings. Specht issues his *Sire/ Son Report* following release of the USDA Animal Improvement Programs Lab sire and cow evaluation summaries in January and July. His *Herd Prefix Report* is a spin-off from his *Sire/Son* Report.

Both reports are available from Lawrence W. Specht, 324 Henning Building, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802.



Penn State's Larry W. Specht, (left), professor of Dairy Science, and Gary W. Rogers, assistant professor of Dairy and Animal Science.



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