

White Park? Indeed, This Breed May Work Well As Cross

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— Jon Reed was recently driving his truck down the interstates of Illinois and Iowa and spotted several herds of White Park cattle.

White Park? Few beef producers used the breed, let alone heard of it. But from what he saw and read about the cattle, Reed was convinced that he could use them on his own cow/calf farm, so he purchased two purebred cows and a bull and used them to crossbreed with some of his own herd (30 head, including calves) of Limousin cattle.

The White Park cattle, with the telltale white coat, black snout, and small, polled head have been known for years to have some of the highest fertility, ease of calving, mothering ability, milk production, feed conversion, and vigor of any of the beef breeds. Reed bought the cattle to cross with his own Limousin herd to provide a bigger weaning weight and faster gain.

Reed told *Lancaster Farming* that the cows show excellent maternal traits, including lots of milk production and gentleness with their calves. "They're real self-sufficient cattle," he said.

The breed itself doesn't carry a lot of weight, said Reed, and does excellent on a strictly hay diet. "They're supposed to do well on grass and hay," he said. Reed keeps his own livestock off grain as much as possible.

Along the interstates in many parts of the mid-West, Reed has noticed some White Park herds, purebred and scattered crossbred farms in Illinois and Iowa. From what he can tell, interest is catching on, mainly through the efforts of producers, and some from the White Park Cattle Association of America, based in Madrid, Iowa.

One breeder, Marilyn Moeckly in Polk City, Iowa, operates her own purebred and crossbred herds of White Park cattle. She manages about 100 head of Angus/White Park in a commercial herd and about 140 head of purebred cattle. She sells the cattle at 600-800 pounds as feeder stock.

Moeckly also serves as president of the White Park Association, which now has more than 400 members.

In an article in the July 1992 Rocky Mountain Feed and Livestock Journal, White Park producers Don and Wanda Allen of WD Farm in Walton, Ky., spoke about purchasing White Park cattle for the first time.

"I was comparing them to some of the cows I had previously worked," wrote Don. "I was afraid they would lift their tails and take off to parts unknown. Soon I was to learn, however, about only one of the many good characteristics of the White Park breed."

They are docile and easy to handle, indicated the Allens. They also have the penchant for enjoying grass in their diet.

The Allens wrote, "Some of the many reasons for owning White Park Cattle are high fertility, ease in calving, superior mother ability, excellent milk producer, feed conversion, outstanding vigor and hardiness. . . ."

The White Park's conversion rate, according to the article, is about 4.8 to 5.2 pounds per gain.

In the feedlots, according to Rocky Mountain Feed and Livestock, "White Park cattle show very good feed conversion and daily rate of gain, whether the feedlot is muddy, in continuous subzero weather or in the 100-degrees plus heat, they adapt and perform. Efficient feed use and gain rate put the Park feeder in the most desired slaughter category quickly—Low Choice to Choice; yield grade of 2 to 3; (and) 1,000 to 1,100 pounds at 14 to 16 months."

A few comparisons of carcass merits of White Park X Hereford steers from a Hays, Kan., test, according to the newspaper, show the White Park's progress:

- Average daily gain 93 days feedlot — White Park X Hereford, 4.15 pounds.
- Average total gain — White Park X Hereford, 615.8 pounds.
- Dressing percent — White Park X Hereford, 64.60.
- Percent Choice — White Park X Hereford, 67.6.

The cattle, according to Moeck-

ly, are medium frame and have never been bred for draft animals and adapt very well to climate and available feed conditions, "with light red meat preferred by the lovers of fine textured beef," she wrote.

Tests are under way to collect data on performance and breed characteristics to form a database of expected progeny differences (EPDs) on the breed, according to Reed. Moeckly wrote that, in 1991, the association purchased a computerized performance program to "give a comprehensive reading across White Park herds in America for EPDs and ultimately sire evaluation," she wrote.

In the meantime, producers such as Reed are "real pleased," he said, with the cattle so far. Moeckly urges that producers who want more information on the breed to contact the White Park Cattle Association of America, 419 North Water St., Madrid, IA 50156, (515) 795-2013.



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Maryland Women Take Top Title In National Dairy Judging

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Ogden Nash, the former tongue-in-cheek American poet of "Golden Oldie" days, once summed up his entire knowledge about cows with the line, "One end is moo, the other milk."

Nash could have learned a lot more about the bovine species from two young Maryland women who both won national championships in dairy cattle judging competition on Sept. 28 during the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis.

April Hall, 16, of Church Hill (Queen Anne's County) was the top individual among 132 contestants from 34 states and one Canadian province in the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest.

Jenell R. Rinehart, 20, of Taneytown (Carroll County) placed first among 114 contestants from 30 colleges and universities in the National Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest.

Miss Rinehart is an animal sciences junior at the University of Maryland at College Park. She is a former state dairy princess and state 4-H Fashion Revue winner. And she was a member of the Maryland 4-H dairy cattle judging team that captured a national

championship in 1989.

Rinehart won the national collegiate crown by a comfortable six-point margin in total score over her nearest opponent, Kim Brown from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. She also placed first in both oral reasons and Jersey breed judging.

The Wisconsin delegation, however, won the team championship by a wide margin, with three of its team members finishing in the top 10. The University of Maryland team finished seventh, behind Cornell University and just ahead of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Her national championship earned Rinehart a gold watch, a \$200 cash award and the chance to compete for the \$2,000 Kildee graduate study scholarship, granted each year to one of the top 25 contestants in the intercollegiate dairy cattle judging event.

Joining Rinehart on the University of Maryland team were Jennifer Woodward-Greene of Denton (Caroline County), an animal sciences junior, and two Frederick County residents — James M. Allen of Jefferson, an animal sciences senior, and Laurie Zimmerman of Frederick, a junior in agri-

cultural and resource economics.

Maryland's 4-H team placed second in its division — losing to Florida, but edging out the big dairy states of New York, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Minnesota.

Just a month earlier, April Hall, Maryland's national 4-H dairy cattle judging winner, had proved her all-around knowledge of dairy cattle by placing first among senior contestants in the 4-H and FFA junior dairyman contest at the Maryland State Fair.

She placed tenth in overall individual standings among senior contestants in the Maryland 4-H dairy cattle judging contest; so she had to work hard during tryouts to qualify for the state team that represented Maryland in regional and national competition.

Her national championship earned April the Lawrence O. Colebank \$500 scholarship award from the American Guernsey Association.

Other members of the Maryland 4-H team competing in the national contest at Madison included Brian R. Schnebly, 16, of Dry Run (Washington County). Brian was the top individual among senior contestants in the 4-H dairy cattle

judging contest on Sept. 4 at the Maryland State Fair in Timonium.

He placed second in the overall standings among 58 contestants from 15 states in the 4-H division of the Pennsylvania All-American dairy cattle judging contest on Sept. 20 at Harrisburg, Pa. In addition, he was third in oral reasons and first in both Ayrshire and Jersey breed judging.

Two 18-year-old Frederick County residents also competed. They were Annette Summers of Frederick and Shannon Harrison of Burkittsville. Annette was a member of Frederick County's team that placed first in senior competition at the Maryland State Fair. Shannon was a member of Howard County's second-place team.

Coaching both the Maryland collegiate and 4-H teams was J. Lee Majeskie, animal sciences specialist for the Cooperative Extension Service, University of Maryland at College Park.

Dr. Majeskie has coached the Maryland 4-H teams for 12 years. This was the first appearance for a Maryland collegiate team in national dairy cattle judging competition since 1987.

Majeskie was assisted by Katharine Knowlton, a graduate research assistant. Helping with the 4-H team at Madison was Judy Iager of Fulton (Howard County). Mrs. Iager's son, Mark, and her husband, Charles E. Iager, Jr., are both past national champions in 4-H dairy cattle judging competition.

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