

Garden Spot Red Rose Holds Meeting - Guernsey Membership To Vote On Genetic Recovery Program

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"We're all human and make mistakes," he said, saying that in tough times, people have to remember to be happy and enjoy the fellowship and brotherhood.

However, he said he is determined to do his best to make sure that Pa.DHIA regrouping and restrengthening. "I'm going to recommend closing down the College Avenue office and move back into the laboratory," he said.

"The biggest area that needs work is rebuilding the foundation of this organization.

"It's a lot easier to build a new foundation than to repair the foundation," but he said there is no reason not to shore up the Pa.DHIA foundation.

He said he intends to spend more than half his time in the field working with county boards, etc. and then every week he has a meeting with the state staff to go over a list of recommendations and to try to work out what can be done.

"We also want to help supervisors do a better job," he said. Also, he said that members should encourage other producers not on test to do so, especially more AM/PM and owner testing.

On a national level, Robert Kindig, a national director, gave an update of the restructuring of National DHIA since state borders have largely been removed, with former state organizations now being considered affiliates of National DHIA.

Yet to be worked out, he said, are requests from groups of dairymen not tied specifically to a geo-

graphic or political boundary to be recognized as affiliates.

"The challenge is to have a program solid enough that it can serve the whole range," he said.

He also reported that there is a question of members whose use of DHIA is such that they can not be fined for rule infractions who are still asked to share to cost for pursuing allegations of violations.

Dean Amick, state director of field services and now also in charge of the laboratory, reported that currently 66 percent of the state organization's 190 field technicians have been trained and approved for using portable computers for electronically sending data.

Within the next month he said he expects that figure to close in on 100 percent, and by March 1, all but a handful of the field technicians will be have been trained to use field computers.

"Then we'll be ready to send out Dairy Comp 305. Then you'll really be able to see (what the changes can mean to the producer)," he said.

According to Amick, members will be able to get a lot of information on test day that can help manage the herd. And the field computer-use should reduce error delays. The goal is that errors will be discovered at the farm before the information is sent to State College for processing, gets kicked back, and reduces a producer's ability to make change.

Further, he said that the Pa.DHIA Board of Directors gave

the staff permission to create and select people for serving on a Technician Advisory Committee for Quality Certification. The nine-member board has met twice to date and is scheduled to meet four times per year, he said.

"I think everything will work out in the long run and will be better off," he said.

In other business, the Red Rose organization recognized its members' outstanding achievements.

J. Harold Fritz farm of Lancaster was recognized with the top herd management award for the group, earning 70 points and receiving a plaque sponsored by F.M. Brown & Sons.

Second place was Wilmer Horst, third went to Christ F. King.

K&Q Swiss, owned by Red Rose president Tom Smith and wife Dale, of Denver, was presented an award for having the lowest somatic cell count — 181,000. The award was sponsored by Ray Kline.

In second place was Samuel Fisher with 213,000, and third went to Singing Maple Farms with 216,000.

The J. Harold Fritz farm also was recognized for having the high herd for milk and protein production. The award was sponsored by McCracken's Feed Mill Inc.

Also recognized during the event were Jay Risser, supervisor, for 40 years service, and Lois Ann Risser with 35 years service.

For more information about the Garden Spot Red Rose DHIA, call Smith at (717) 336-0553.

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — The American Guernsey Association Board of Directors recently voted to bring to the vote of the membership an amendment to the Constitution of the American Guernsey Association regarding the Genetic Recovery Program.

This proposal would require that two additional steps be added prior to the provisional register status of the current Genetic Recovery Program.

Step one is the recorded female (RF). She should be a dairy type animal with no genetically related abnormalities. She should have at least one purebred Guernsey parent.

Step two is the Guernsey type (GT) animal. This generation would require Guernsey type or appearance. This female would be sired by a purebred Guernsey bull out of a RF. The animal in this step would be a minimum of 75 percent Guernsey. If adequate records are provided, the initial animal may enter as a GT animal. This step would be comparable to the original animal (OA) status in our current program. Females in this step are eligible for AGA production awards.

Step three is the provisional register (PR) animal. This would be a female out of a GT female and sired by a registered Guernsey bull. There will be no production or type requirements to advance from the PR status to step four. Females in this step are eligible for AGA production awards. This step would be a minimum of 87

percent Guernsey. Step four is the genetic recovery (GR) animal. This would be a female out of a PR female and a registered Guernsey bull. For a bull to be registered, his dam must be at least a GR female. This step would be a minimum of 94 percent Guernsey.

Animals in all four steps would have the same information available as registered animals, such as a registration certificate, production records and classification records.

When registering animals in this program, breeders would have to sign that, to the best of their knowledge, this animal has no genetic abnormalities. Every animal must be available for inspection by an AGA representative if requested.

Genetic recovery females are fully registered, thereby having all the privileges of registered Guernseys.

Fees for the expanded Genetic Recovery Program would be as follows: RF-\$5, PR \$7 and GR would depend upon membership status. A \$2 fee per animal would be assessed for postage and handling to convert animals from the past Guernsey Genetic Growth Program into this program.

The board of directors met at their annual winter meeting Dec. 10-11 in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. The American Guernsey Association is the national organization for the registration and promotion of Guernsey cattle and is headquartered in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

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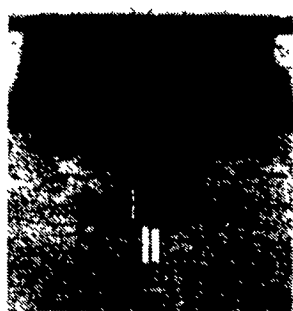
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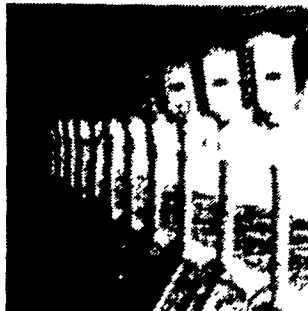
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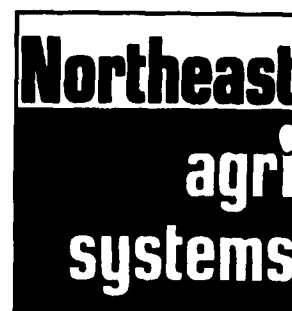
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