

Holstein Association Outlines

(Continued from Page A31)

Scheduling is also to change as of August 1 and members will get a letter in the mail explaining scheduling changes.

However, the three options are to be Area Scheduling, Non-Area Scheduling, and Special Scheduling. The names are fairly self-explanatory and the costs are associated with the degree of convenience the breeder desires.

Non Area Scheduling is more expensive than regular Area Scheduling and requires that participation in a herd classification program has occurred within the past 14 months and will again within the next 14 months. Under this program, the breeder decides when the classification is to occur.

The Special Scheduling however is for those who, for example, are preparing for a herd dispersal and/or don't qualify for entry in the Non-Area Scheduling. It is a one-time deal.

Other topics covered during the forum included animal identification, genetic issues, alternative rating systems, animal care, membership and finance.

Financing of the Holstein Association is becoming critical,

according to John Cope.

The association has been basically operating with an annual loss of \$270,000, although income from earnings off of the association's reserve fund which has a cash value of \$14 million, though a paper value of \$16 million.

According to Cope, for the past four to five years, the association began paying some overhead expenses with earnings from the reserve fund. He said that practice has extended to the point that all earnings from the reserve fund are used to pay association operating expenses, above what registration fees and dues and other revenues can cover.

"We have come to a critical stage in the association," Cope said. "We have become used to using earned income from the reserve to the point of using all of it to run the organization."

He said that while the association is not in financial danger, it has come to the point where additional revenues must be generated.

Investments made by the association have been earning well, he said, but a fee increase in registration has been proposed. He said that rental of office space in the

new headquarters building in Brattleboro is generating income and an additional 10,000 square feet of space is about to be leased.

Costs for a new computer system and other improvements in the main office will translate into savings, once the equipment is paid for. In the meantime, he said that the annual loss has been averaging about \$270,000 in actual cash loss and the association leadership is projecting a similar loss for the current year.

Registrations have been down, along with total cow number numbers. Cope said the percentage of Holsteins being registered hasn't changed, but the real number has declined, because the total number of cattle available for registration has dropped.

Opening up the association's herd book has added some registration numbers, he reported, but he compared 1992 registrations of 360,000 to last year's 340,000. He said only 320,000 are projected for 1994.

Discussion covered what kinds of price increases for registrations might be reasonable, and whether or not a pedigree should be included in that price was also

considered.

Cope said that the association shouldn't be quick to give away pedigrees, since the basic value of the organization is in the information it generates through pedigree verification.

Bill Nichol, manager of the Pa. Holstein Association said that he thought an increased registration fee that included a pedigree would be a better way of doing business. He said that since dairymen already pay for all the information gathering systems upon which the Holstein Association depends, then they shouldn't be expected to pay a lot for the pedigree.

Animal identification was reviewed. The Holstein Association has adopted a permanent, two ear-tag system, or the use of an ear tag in one ear and a transponder in the other, for animal identification. The association also has other options for identification, but Cope said that field work done with the tamper-proof ear tags shows a low rate of loss. In the event an ear tag is lost, members will have a certain amount of time to submit for a replacement tag.

Among a number of other items, up for consideration at the national

convention are three proposals for change of the association Bylaws.

A name change from the Holstein-Freisian Association of America to Holstein Association of America Inc. has been proposed. Cope said that although the association has adopted a new logo with the name Holstein Association and has pretty well ceased to use the word "Freisian" in any of its literature, it is still the legal name of the association.

Those supporting an official change now have said that in Europe cattle breeders associate the Freisian name as referring to a dual-purpose line of Holstein, rather than the predominately dairy-functional animal that is representative of the breed.

A membership fee increase from the current \$10 per year to \$25 is also to be considered, as well as a proposal to stop the requirement of actually cancelling registrations of animals after they have died.

For more information, contact a local Holstein leader, or contact the national association at its Brattleboro headquarters.



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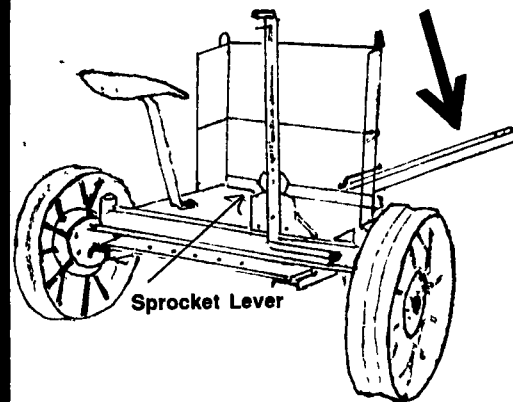
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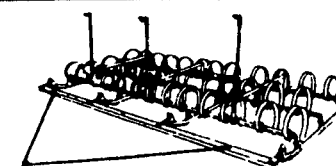
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