

Holstein Programs Outlined At Barn Meeting

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

PARADISE (Lancaster Co.)—At a barn meeting on the farm of Robert and Gary Bowman, an outline of the new linear classification program from the National Holstein Association and other herd book and registration information were topics of discussion. Don Cook, classifier, and Clarence Stauffer, field services, conducted the meeting sponsored by the Lancaster County Holstein Association.

In the linear classification program, a classifier from the national association evaluates each cow for 17 functional traits. Each trait is given a value, and you can review a cow's ratings and identify her strengths and weaknesses. Because bulls are now evaluated by similar means, through classification of their daughters, a service sire can be selected to mate for improvement of offspring.

Cook explained the various important traits for which dairymen should watch. For example, a cow with too much set to her hock joints, a sickle-hocked cow, would have trouble moving around. Or a cow with an udder that didn't have good fore and rear attachments may not be suitable for extended production.

The linear classification results are used as a benchmark to track progress from generation to generation. You have more control of the direction of your breeding program by using this unbiased means to measure progress.

In addition to the new scoring breakdowns, the association has

several participation programs that allow dairy farmers to classify only the cows they want to use in their breeding program.

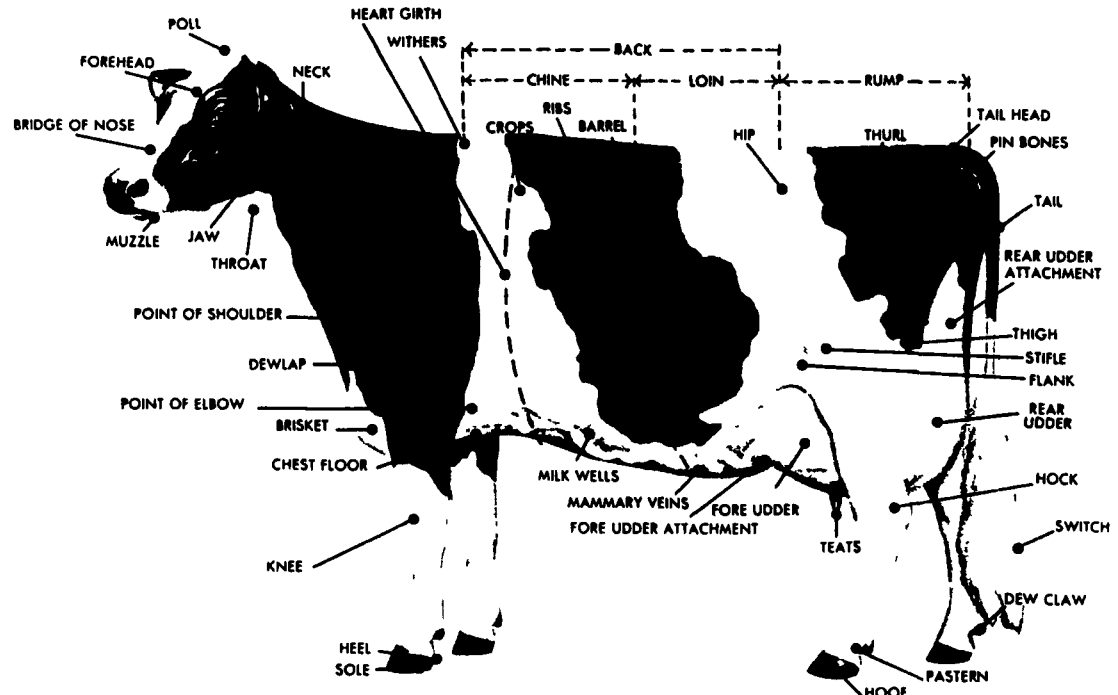
For example, you may want to use the "classic" program that classifies all the cows in the herd that have ever freshened with 36 months. Or you can select the option to classify "breeder's choice" with only special cows to be classified. Between these possibilities are four other programs that give dairymen a break on classification costs but meet the needs of the breeding programs in many different herds.

Stauffer told the group that you can permanently identify your animals over the phone by calling the toll-free number and giving the genetic information to the home office. They will take the information and print it on the application that is sent to you for sketches or photos. If you don't want to bother with sketches or photos, the association allows you to use permanent-type ear tags.

The Qualified Holstein Herdbook also offers those with cows that have not been registered to become part of an identified program. Grade cows with proper identification of genetic background can now become part of this separate herd registry book. In an attempt to get many of the good grade cows into a registry program, a low application fee is in place until the end of this year. Anyone interested in any of these programs can call the National Holstein Association at 1-800-952-5200 or contact a local county association officer or board member.



Don Cook, classifier for the National Holstein Association, talks with dairymen at the barn meeting.



The functional parts of a cow used to describe linear traits are shown on a model of the true-type Holstein.

Owner Dean Dairyman
Address 1500 Farm Lane
Holstein WI 53535

ANIMAL NO.		SEX	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF CALVING	STATURE	STRENGTH	BODY DEPTH	DAIRY FORM	RUMP ANGLE	THURL WIDTH	REAR LEG SIDE VIEW	FOOT ANGLE	FORE UDDER ATTACHMENT	REAR UDDER HEIGHT	REAR UDDER WIDTH	UDDER CLEFT	UDDER DEPTH	FRONT TEAT PLACEMENT	TEAT LENGTH	REAR LEG REAR VIEW	UDDER TILT	(NOT DEFINED)	(NOT DEFINED)	(NOT DEFINED)	PREVIOUS CLASSIFICATION	MULTI E	GENERAL	DAIRY	BODY	MAMMARY	FINAL
1	10342984	♀	10-05	12-30-89	34	33	34	41	25	36	25	30	26	32	37	15	28	18	37	10	28				4-12-89						90
2	10922314	♀	10-04	1-22-89	42	40	37	42	18	34	22	40	10	36	36	34	15	14	36	37	32				4-12-89						85
3	11600072	♀	6-10	2-02-90																					4-12-89						83
4	11717850	♀	6-08	5-24-89	32	31	32	36	12	27	32	28	32	25	17	30	25	37	26	18	27				4-12-89						81
5	11990933	♀	5-10	1-15-90	42	38	40	42	25	37	25	36	34	36	38	27	28	32	22	32	30				4-12-89						86
6	11990935	♀	5-10	4-07-89	36	38	37	37	18	36	30	12	42	18	40	40	36	34	26	22	29				4-12-89						86
7	12052652	♀	5-09	7-26-89	50	50	43	40	22	45	27	36	32	28	25	20	15	26	37	18	22				4-12-89	09-90					90
8	12313697	♀	5-00	12-26-89	40	37	40	36	20	38	23	37	22	20	18	32	28	28	32	36	28				4-12-89						85
9	12313698	♀	5-00	8-28-89	37	30	34	37	22	30	34	28	10	34	37	36	34	30	23	27	30				4-12-89						87
10	12495037	♀	4-07	8-18-89	36	36	24	22	27	34	22	32	34	34	36	33	36	32	36	32	30				4-12-89						85
11	12615110	♀	4-06	4-24-89	34	29	34	44	15	28	36	17	13	26	30	37	40	36	14	18	28				4-12-89						86
12	12616706	♀	4-04	7-20-89	24	21	24	28	27	15	21	24	17	34	24	25	19	17	15	35	18				4-12-89						78
13	12798352	♀	3-09	2-26-90	34	22	25	41	34	18	32	27	28	18	20	30	32	28	26	20				4-12-89						82	
14		♀		12-29-89	34	25	36																								

This sample of the barn worksheet given to you for your files at the time of type classification shows the new linearized descriptive traits now used in the registered Holstein program.

Dean Hood Named Chairman Of Ag Satellite Consortium

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Dr. Lamartine F. Hood, dean of Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, has been elected chairman of the Agricultural Satellite Consortium (AG*SAT), a consortium of nearly 50 land-grant universities and government agencies.

AG*SAT was formed in 1989 for the production and distribution of distance education programming, including undergraduate credit courses and cooperative extension programs. Penn State is a charter member, and Hood has been a member of the consortium's board of directors since its inception. He previously served as secretary and vice-chairman of the board.

"My role will be to provide leadership to ensure that AG*SAT attains its full potential as a provider of distance education programs," Hood said.

Hood believes the biggest challenge facing AG*SAT is developing quality programming on a regular basis. "We have to take a market approach in creating programs that meet the needs of our partners and diverse audiences," he said.

"We need to form alliances with other organizations, such as user groups and private industry. And we need to utilize a whole range of emerging technologies to reach those who can use the information, whether they are location-bound students, cooperative extension

clients or those in commercial sectors."

Penn State has been heavily involved in the production and distribution of AG*SAT programming. One of the first two courses offered via AG*SAT, Introductory Food Science, originated from Penn State in the spring of 1991. The course was downlinked and offered for credit at six college campuses nationwide, and also was used for professional training by extension and food industry personnel in two states.

"AG*SAT allows member universities to use each other's courses to fill voids in their curricula," Hood said. "But as our Introductory Food Science course demonstrated, course materials

can be used for multiple purposes, maximizing our efforts."

Since 1989, the College of Agricultural Sciences also has originated nearly 50 cooperative extension videoconferences that have been distributed by AG*SAT and offered at dozens of locations around Pennsylvania and beyond. These programs typically include videotaped portions and interactive segments when audience members can talk directly with specialists in the studio via telephone.

In conjunction with AG*SAT, Penn State is installing satellite dishes at cooperative extension offices across the state. So far, 15 downlink sites have been completed and 16 more are in the plan-

ning or construction phases. Funding for much of the AG*SAT network, which is headquartered at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has been provided by telecommunication facilities grants from the U.S. Department of Commerce. Matching funds or in-kind services have been provided by member institutions and county governments.

"The growth of AG*SAT is a reflection of the commitment colleges of agriculture have to all citizens," said Hood. "The creative use of these distance education technologies will help us fulfill our land-grant mission into the 21st century."