Two Named To Pa. Holstein Hall



A \$1,000 donation from Huntingdon County Holstein Club kicked off PHA fundraising efforts for the 1995 National Junior Holstein convention being hosted in Pittsburgh. On hand for the check presentation were, from left, national Holstein vice president and 1995 convention chairman John Cope, national director and convention treasurer Tom Kelly, and Huntingdon County Holstein breeders Wayne Harpster, Jim Grove, Galen Baney and John Foster, Jr.

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five children. He finds time to help with the present Swampy-Hollow dairy herd, owned by their daughter and son-in-law Sandy and Joe Luby, as well as do some auctioneering, golfing, hunting and fishing.

Young Holstein Breeder award winners Dave and Phoebe Bitler became the owner-operators of Vista-Grande farm in 1987. Their '93-head registered Holstein milking string averages 21,468 milk, 737 fat and 682 protein, with a BAA of 106.1, and earned them their first Progressive Breeder Registry award in 1993.

The Berks County operation also includes 428 acres cropped to corn, alfalfa, wheat and soybeans. Breeding stock sales of 20-30 head, plus the 20-head of dairy beef last year, offer cash-flow diversity. In addition, Dave operates a custom manure-haul service and Phoebe teaches craft "Classes in the Country."

Dave and Phoebe have both served as national Holstein convention delegates, on the state program development, youth and milk promotion committees, and in offices and committee activities of the Berks County club. They were co-chairpersons of the 1991 state Holstein convention and are currently the co-chairs of the 1995 national junior Holstein convention to be hosted by PHA in Pittsburgh.

In 1989, Atlantic Dairy Cooperative named them its outstanding Young Cooperator couple. Phoebe has been named the National Spokesperson for Agriculture by the National Young Farmers Association. Among their other leadership activities have been coaching 4-H dairy judging, Berks County dairy princess coordinator, Young Farmers chapter president and work with their Hope Community Church.



Robert Fitzsimmons, general manager of Lylehaven Farms, told Holstein breeders that merchandising herd genetics "is hard work," requiring time and ongoing efforts in showing and advertising.

Dave and Phoebe have one son, Jesse, and hope he may be interested in a future career in the family's dairy operation. As Pennsylvania Young Holstein Breeder winners, the Bitlers will be entered as state representatives in the national contest.

Two donated embryos were awarded as special doorprizes. Ken and Rose Wenger, Littlestown, won an embryo donated by Robert and Audrey Mong of Franklin County. Sire is Mountain and dam is Afton Spring Tong Sharon, VG-85, with a 2-06 inprogress record to date of 14,420, 4.1%, 593 fat, and 3.5%, 508 protein.

Dr. Dave Morrow, who chaired the Hall of Fame committee, was the winner of the second embryo consigned by Steve Myers, Franklin County. By Counselor, the embryo's dam is Brigeen Hanover Hill Nolie-ET, EX-90, 2E, with a 5-year, 365-day record of 36,670 milk, 3.4% and 1248 fat, 3.3% and 1217 protein.

Festivities for the annual banquet included a visit by 16th President Abraham Lincoln, alias James Getty, and an auction of donated art and handcrafted items that raised more than \$5700 to benefit the 1995 National Junior Holstein Convention. High selling-item at \$1500 was a glassfront dollhouse furnished in Holstein decor. It was hand-crafted by Lucille Day, mother of Franklin County Holstein breeder Curtis Day, and was purchased by John Marchezak, Bentleyville.

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