

Roth Recalls AI History

(Continued from Page A1)

the early '70's. That's when progeny testing programs began to accelerate and take on new meaning. Bull generations began to turn over faster, and the top bulls in the genetic pool greatly increased production per cow. That's how the farmers became more efficient.

"Now we look for the next revelation to keep farmers efficient. I believe technology has something for us. But the challenge to the family farm will be an emotional thing, a crossing point. The economics is one side, but the family aspect and the way of life to raise a family and teach children moral values is the other side. That creates real trauma, and society will need to fit in. We will be affected by it.

"In the '40's when the AI industry started, we had 25 million cows producing enough to feed our nation. Now with human population greatly increased, we feed our nation with nine million cows and still have a surplus. In addition, the AI industry has down-sized. In the '50's the nation had 100 AI organizations, in the '60's we had 20, and now we have only a few, and several of them have plans to merge.

Along with progeny testing, frozen semen was the breakthrough that brought the industry into high gear. Farmers then had the opportunity to be selective on genetic input. Emphasis was placed on sire selection."

Roth was the first person in the industry with the title of sire analyst. Today with the larger number of proven bulls, the selection from the top bulls gives the dairy farmer a good chance to improve genetics regardless of which bull he uses.

Roth said that when he received word that he was to receive the distinguished service award, he was surprised.

"When I consider the patriarchs of the industry who have received the award, I ask myself if I am really in the class of all those others who did all those outstanding things," Roth said. "I have had the opportunity to do a lot of things to contribute to the AI industry. The thing I enjoy most is to help things along and bring people together to motivate unity. If I am in the limelight or not is immaterial. I would just as soon be working along with the group and see things happen. I'm not looking for accolades. I'm just as happy out in the cow barn as anywhere you could put me. I enjoy working on a low key basis with farmers."

It should be noted that Roth was largely responsible for bringing his part of the AI industry together from local units into a state organization much the same way that Pennsylvania DHIA is in the process of doing.

"I've been blessed with good training and have been taught the work ethic," Roth said. "I've been taught sound basic principles from

a Christian family. I have tried to make it easy for farmers to identify with me."

Roth has been General Manager of Atlantic since January 1, 1985. He also is Chairman of the Administrative Council of Federated Genetics, a partnership of three AI cooperatives that carries out an extensive national and international semen marketing program.

Raised on a Holstein dairy farm near Allentown, Harry is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University with a major in dairy science. While at Penn State, he was active in the Ag Honorary Society, Dairy Science Club, Dairy Judging Team, and Delta Theta Sigma fraternity. Roth was a member of the York County, Pennsylvania Agricultural Extension staff for one and a half years prior to his career in AI in 1956. Starting as a fieldman for Western Pennsylvania Artificial Breeding Cooperative at Clarion, he later assumed the duties of sire analyst and was named general manager in October of 1960. He held that position until the July, 1964 merger with Southeastern Pennsylvania ABC to form Atlantic Breeders Cooperative, when he was named breed programs director. He served as operations director prior to being named general manager.

Roth is a member of the Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show and for 13 years was chairman of the

show's Invitational Youth Dairy Judging Contest. He was approved by the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association to judge Holstein and Guernsey shows. In 1970 he was alternate judge for all three national Holstein shows and judged the Western National the following year.

He served on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Animal Breeders from 1977 to 1983, including one year as President. He currently serves on the NAAB's Managers and Nominating Committees and has been active on the Long-Range Planning, Ethics and Practices, Research, and Dairy Sire Evaluation & Genetic Improvement Committees. He is also a member

of the Dairy Shrine Club and Gamma Sigma Delta.

Roth currently serves on the Pennsylvania Council of Cooperatives' Finance Committee and the Program Development Committee for its director and officer training program. He is on the Board of Directors of Penn State's College of Agriculture Advisory Council. He is also a member of the Governor's Partnership Board on Economic Development for the State of Pennsylvania.

Roth is an active member of the Zion Church at Millersville. He and his wife Ruth have three daughters and five grandchildren.

The NAAB convention is scheduled to be held August 24-26, 1994, at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.

Chester Holstein Breeders Set Field Day

COCHRANVILLE (Chester Co.) — The 1994 Chester County Holstein field day is scheduled to be held at the farm of Harry and Dorothy Troop on Thursday, August 11.

The Troops emigrated to Chester County from Lancaster County in 1966. Their family includes four children: Jeanette, David, Diane, and Joyce. David and his family still work in the operation.

The farm is located south of Cochranville off Route 10. The Faggs-Manor prefix comes from the historic Faggs-Manor Presbyterian Church, which is directly south of the farm.

The rolling herd average on DHIA test is 22,000m 763f 690p. The herd consists of 62 milk cows and 70 replacement heifers. The herd has been 100 percent registered for the past 25 years.

The Troops have bred two excellent cows. The first was sold to a buyer from California. The

most recent one was Faggs-Manor Ivanhoe Star Donna EX-90. She has produced over 160,000m in seven lactations. Her calves have been shown at the 4-H and local dairy shows by the grandchildren.

The speaker and judge for the contest in the morning will be Ron Wood, Gor-Wood-O Holsteins, Mansfield. Ron is also a director of the Holstein Association.

The field day starts at 10 a.m. There will be a chicken bar-b-que for noon lunch. The cost is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children 4-12 years, and those under four are free. So bring the whole family for a fun-filled day at Troops.

The farm is located two miles south of the intersection of Route 10 and Route 41. Go south on Route 10 and make a left turn on Troop Road.

For reservations call Jane Pepple: 932-3975; Stan Guest: 469-6627; or Dick Hostetter: 857-2780. Deadline is August 3.

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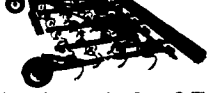
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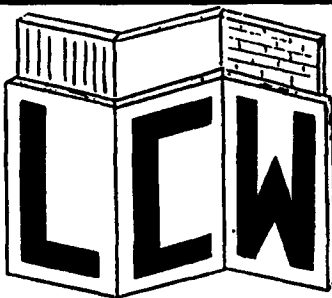
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