

Chester County Holstein Breeders Hold Field Day

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor
COCHRANVILLE (Chester Co.) — The Chester County Holstein Club annual field day was held at the Harry Troop Family Farm with 200 people present.

The morning judging contest was again of great interest with groups of four fine-typed animals pulled out to provide the competition. Ron Wood, from Tioga County and a new National Holstein Association director was the judge and featured speaker.

Wood said his parents started with grades. With hard work over the years the herd grew into what is now one of the best know registered Holstein herds in Pennsylvania. They have 78 cows classified excellent in the herd.

He said they like the cow families that produce individuals that last 10 years or more and said they don't expect their 2-year-olds to over-produce.

"We like to let the 2-year-old be a 2-year-old." Wood said. "We want them to grow up and, somewhere between 5 and 10 years of age, become 30,000-pound cows. As long as we can keep the old cows around, we have a replacement heifer to sell. We expect them to milk a long time."

He said their advertising program in "Profiles" has been very beneficial and said that showing was a hobby that has helped them to meet a lot of nice people.

The have used their own bulls from cow families that have good production and four to six generations of excellent or very good cows in the pedigree.

Wood said that farmers are a tough lot of people who rejuvenate each spring. And he said that it has always been part of his family's thinking that there is nothing better than a good cow.

Walt Wurster, Chester County agent, complimented the Chester



Chester County Holstein breeders gather to hear the placings in the judging contest at their field day at the Harry Troop farm on Thursday.

County dairy industry for the support of the new 4-H center. He said the net from the auction was \$29,000 with expenses of about \$500. He said the 4-H program was quite active and that 50 animals were scheduled to be shown in the district show at Kutztown. Show animals need two BVD shots to qualify to go to the show and he recommended that farmers begin to vaccinate for BVD if they are not doing this now.

Leon Wilkerson, Chester County dairyman who chairs the Pennsylvania Milk Commission, said

he believes young people have as many problems now with \$11.41 milk as they had at \$6.00 milk years ago.

He said that years ago, a slogan that was used to promote milk said, "You can whip our cream, but you can't beat our milk." But now the consumer at the store is buying the two percent milk and butterfat does not make it (sell)."

Clarence Stauffer, representative for the National Holstein Association, said now is the time to catch up on registrations of over-age animals because there is a half-

price reduction on animals over two years old. Of course, the animals should be registered as calves. But if there has been a laps in getting the job done, you should bring registrations up to date now.

In the judging contest the top placings are as follows:

MEN: 1. Tim Barlow. 2. John St. John. 3. Ed Breckbill.

WOMEN: 1. Sharon Nolan. 2. Margret Meily. 3. Judy Hostetter, Nori King, and Linda Stoltzfus.

JUNIORS: 1. Rodney Hostetter. 2. Jesse Martin. 3. Marilyn Stoltzfus.

Preparation Begins For Testing Programs

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Meat Animal Evaluation Center has announced that preparations are under way for the upcoming 22nd annual performance testing bull program and the swine progeny testing program.

The Center is accepting nominations from progressive beef and swine producers to participate in the respective testing programs.

The bull testing program will accept bull calves born January 1, 1994 through April 15, 1994. These bulls must be eligible for registry with their national breed associations.

The bulls will be delivered October 18 and undergo a 21-day adjustment period before being weighed on test November 8 for the 112-day testing period. These bulls will be weighed every 28 days and average daily gain will be calculated.

Individual feed efficiencies will be kept on all bulls. After completion of the testing period, the bulls will be semen-collected and checked and be ultrasonically scanned to determine backfat thickness and loin eye area.

Adjusted yearling weights and lifetime weight per day of age will be calculated. Hip height, scrotal circumference, and pelvic areas will be measured and provided.

After all the information is gathered and the bulls are indexed, a sale committee of participants will meet and select approximately the top 75 percent of the bulls to be offered for sale in the Pennsylvania 22nd Performance Tested Bull Sale scheduled for March 31, 1995.

The swine progeny testing program is set up to evaluate 4 to 6 pigs out of one sire and as many sows as is convenient. These pigs can be any combination of barrows and gilts and can be purebred, commercial, or composite. These pigs should be born on or after July 7, 1994 and need to be delivered to the test station while they are weighing between 40 and 65 pounds.

The pigs are put on test after a seven-day adjustment period and will be taken off test when the pen averages 230 pounds. Some of the data to be secured from the test are rate of gain, feed efficiency, and days of age to reach 230 pounds.

All pigs will be scanned ultrasonically to determine backfat thickness and loin eye area. The Center will also attempt to have all the pigs slaughtered and carcass measurements collected.

Both of these programs provide valuable information to assist herd owners in improving their herds at minimal cost.

For more information, to request a copy of the rules, or to nominate animals to either the bull test or swine progeny test, contact Glenn Eberly, Director, Meat Animal Evaluation Center, 651 Fox Hollow Road, State College, PA 16803, (814) 238-2527. To leave a message or to send a fax, call (814) 865-5857.



DISHB & THOMPSON, INC.



PARLOR



VISOTRON

Quotes from two of our satisfied customers:

"We have been using our Westfalia pulsation for over 2 years without any problems and only now need to rebuild them"

Roy Hoover & Son
Leola, Pa

"I like the end of milking light that from a distance I know when a cow is finished. If I am not at a cow at the moment with the pulsation stopping, I know she is not over milked. Even with my back turned I can have the pulsation stop and know the cow is done."

Albert Martin
Lititz, Pa

Call Us To See How We Can Meet Your Milking Equipment Needs and Make Your Operation More Profitable

DISHB & THOMPSON, INC.

DAIRY EQUIPMENT • PARTS • SERVICE • REPAIRS

MAIN OFFICE: 1111 N. MARKET ST. • PHOENIX, AZ 85003 • (602) 944-1111

MILWAUKEE: 1111 N. MARKET ST. • MILWAUKEE, WI 53204 • (414) 224-1111

INDEPENDENT SERVICE CENTERS: (Listed in phone book under "Dairy Equipment")