

# Umble: Don't Sell — Rather, Learn To Breed Good Producing Cows

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
ATGLEN (Chester Co.) — Many years ago, retired Holstein breeder John Umble had a chance to consign a cow named "Cherry" to a national sale.

He could have gotten maybe as high as \$4,000 for her.

But, thinking otherwise, he kept the cow and bred her. Fortunately, after 35 years of breeding registered Holstein cattle, in October of 1983, when his cows went to dispersal, the descendants of Cherry (46 in all) sold for a total of nearly \$419,000, at more than \$9,000 a cow.

"I was glad that God directed me to keep that cow," said Umble to more than 100 gathered on Tuesday night at the annual Chester County Holstein Banquet at the West Fallowfield Christian School.

Umble, 76, spoke about some of his experiences through 35 years of breeding. He detailed the many high-indexing and high-producing cows he bred throughout the years and offered encouragement to today's Holstein breeder.

Although he admitted to perhaps being out of date, and certain that feeding programs have changed tremendously over that span of time, he said, "An old breeder told me years ago, the fuller you keep that cow, the more milk she's going to give."

But Umble cautioned producers to be wary of the constant push to make cows produce, even to as high as 30,000-35,000 pounds of milk. "Don't push them 2-year-olds to that kind of record," said Umble. "You're going to ruin that udder. Take care of them. Feed them but don't push them."

Breeders should set a goal in their program, either for breed type (use good type bulls), test (use high test bulls), or production (if you feed it and push it too much, it'll last only a few years in the herd).

"You have to keep that cow in your herd, and keep her, and keep her, and get good offspring out of that good cow," he said.

All too often, that "front-stall cow" is sent to sale or slaughter, when, in fact, if the cow had two good daughters, the potential is there for 10 or even 15 daughters, according to the former breeder.

Also at the meeting, Walt Wurster, Chester County agent, said that about \$325,000 in pledges and money has been raised for the Romano 4-H Center.

The goal is \$700,000 for the project.

He told the Chester Holstein members that this fall or spring, a pole building will be put up on the fairgrounds and there is a good chance that 4-H events at the site will commence next summer. The pole building is donated.

Dick Hostetter, the association secretary/treasurer, said that the starting balance as of Oct. 26, 1993 was \$1,305.52. Total income for 1993-1994 was \$9,167.06 with expenses of \$7,689.51, for a total profit of \$1,477.55. Ending balance as of Oct. 25, 1994 is \$2,783.70. Cheese sales profit for the year was \$1,473.

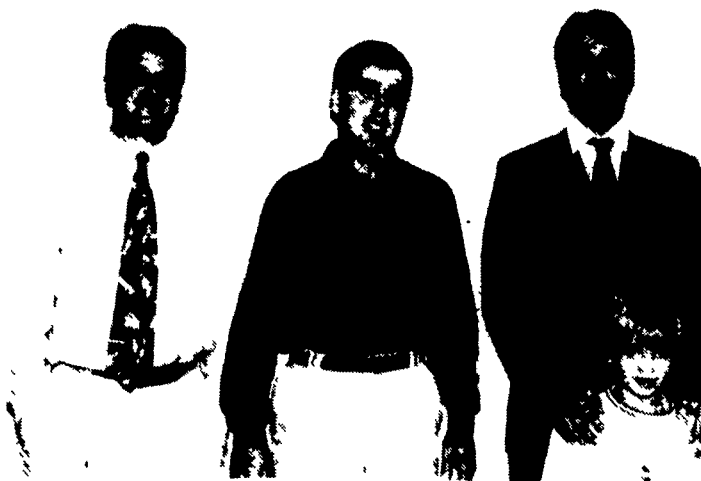
Three new directors were elected at the meeting. They are Rodney Bare, Tim Barlow, and Dale Hostetter.

Also at the meeting, production awards were presented to association members. High lifetime production award for the second year in a row went to Victor and Herman Stoltzfus, Cochranville, for Herbeth Emily Marvex Wayne 14-7, for 283,535 pounds, 10,546f, 8,567p. Breed Age Average (BAA) recognition of 107.8 percent went to Galen Martin, Honey Brook.

High protein lactation honors went to Duane and Marilyn Hershey, Cochranville, for Shelmar Acres Leadman Laura, 1-09, 305d, 25,713 pounds, 3.3%, 853p. High protein mature cow honors went to Charles Moore, Cochranville, for Rol Pen Lyn Alfalfa, 4-07, 303d, 35,953 pounds, 3.1%, 1,122p.



From left, high protein mature cow honors went to Charles Moore, Cochranville, accepted by Penny Moore; high lifetime production award for the second year in a row went to Victor and Herman Stoltzfus, Cochranville, accepted by Victor Stoltzfus; and high protein lactation honors went to Duane and Marilyn Hershey, Cochranville, accepted by Duane Hershey. In front is Duane's son Kelby, 6 and on right, Hershey's sons Stephen, 8 and Robert, 4.



Three new directors were elected at the meeting. They are, from left, Rodney Bare, Dale Hostetter, and Tim Barlow with son Steven, 5.



Youth awards were presented at the Chester County Holstein banquet. From left, Erica Lloyd, High 4-H Holstein Project; Christin Guest, High First Year 4-H Holstein Project; Clark Delp, Outstanding Dairy Student Oxford High School FFA; and Brian Nolan, Outstanding Dairy Student, Octorara High School FFA. Not in photo, Karen Inhoff, Outstanding FFA Dairy Student from Owen J. Roberts.

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