

# Mifflin County Holstein Meeting Held

## GAIL STROCK

Mifflin Co. Correspondent  
ALLENSVILLE (Mifflin Co.)

— "I'm not here to speak as a national director," began Ron Wood of Mansfield. "I'm here as a fellow breeder and Holstein enthusiast."

A good turnout of Mifflin County Holstein Club members and friends met at the Allensville Country Village Restaurant to hear this world-renowned Holstein breeder. Wood dairy farms in partnership with his father and brother. He serves as a director to

the National Holstein Club Association. After giving a brief history of his 3,000-acre farm operation, Wood talked about successful breeding practices they use on their dual herds that total 167 head.

Wood listed three goals they strive for when breeding cows — breeding for cows that will last at least 10 years with 30,000 lb potential, breeding for cows to score very good at the least, and then breeding for a possible show cow.

"We breed cows to please ourselves. What works in your neighbors herd may not work in yours."

Wood said they breed to improve the mother. After several carvings, they can see if any pattern is developing regardless of the sire used. Wood said there are no bad bulls, just bad matings. He encouraged breeders to read and digest sale (dispersal) catalogs and to study pedigrees.

Wood called the pedigree the most important document an owner can own, seeing it as a documentation of parentage.

"The registration paper is only as good as the cow. There are a lot of great grade cows that need papers and a lot of merchandized registered bad cows. Merchandizing is easier and quicker with a pedigree."

In other general comments, Wood said to be careful of the financial risks of embryo transfer. He sees land as a most valuable asset, and practices a lot of pasturing after the first cutting. Wood describes breeding as an art and

encouraged farmers to set goals and to never be satisfied. He reminded fellow breeders that we are all stewards of God's world.

In answering questions, Wood said that all of their heifers are bred to their own bulls. They market 125 to 150 animals per year because of limited space. Out of 300 heifers, 100 are bred all the time and 5 to 6 go to the beef pen. He concluded by saying that each farmer knows his cows best. He encouraged farmers to become involved in milk marketing and to sell a good product.

Earlier in the program, the Club awarded their Distinguished Service Award to Dave Spicher of Belleville. The award goes to someone who has given many years of unselfish service to the Holstein Club. Spicher has chaired both the show and sale committees and has received many breeding awards.

The highest BM award went to Vern-Lee Holsteins of McVeytown. Owned by Russell Kline, his herd average is 107.2.

Darv Yoder presented the Junior Membership report. Citing an active 4-H Holstein Club, Yoder thanked the Holstein Association for the Youth Fair premiums. He presented \$433 in premiums to more than 20 youth. Yoder said he hopes to see another judging team this year led again by Sue Sellers of Belleville.

Paul Neer of Belleville reported for the show committee. This past year's dairy show during the Mifflin County Youth Fair saw 86 entries, 69 of which were youth. Neer said it was the biggest year for first year members (8). He encouraged more to show at the Youth Fair. Neer said Mifflin County is one of the few counties



Elected to serve on the board of directors are, from left, Robert Peachey, Loren K. Yoder, and Victor Yoder.

that hands out trophies and premiums.

The Mifflin County Summer Classic Sale will be held August 17. Neer reported that proceeds will go to help the youth and to pave the alleyways at the Mifflin County Youth Park. Selection of animals for the sale has already started. He said they may include eight to ten good grade Holsteins this year.

Darren Peachey gave the Pennsylvania Holstein report. The State Convention will be held February 23-25. The Spring Showcase Sale will be at the Holstein Association farm in Middletown.

Mifflin County Extension Director Dave Filson presented the top DHIA Management award to Darren and Caryn Peachey of

Belleville. The High Protein Award went to Rod Kauffman. He listed a series of meetings scheduled for February and March including Dairy MAP, dairy nutrition teleconferences, weed school, and pesticide tests. Filson introduced Dairy Extension Agent Dave Swarm who is stationed in Perry but who also services Juniata and Mifflin Counties.

Loren K. Yoder, Robert Peachey, and Victor Yoder were elected to the Mifflin County Holstein Club's board of directors.

Mifflin County Dairy Princess Erin Goss quizzed the crowd about cheese with a "Name the Cheese" handout. In her talk, Goss said that there are about 430 Department of Agriculture approved cheese factories in 30 states of the United States.



Dave Spicher of Belleville received the distinguished service award from Mifflin County Holstein Club.

## Dairy Breeds For Grazing

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — Dairy farmers intent on making the

conversion to an intensive grazing system on their farm is the focus of a series of workshops offered through Penn State Cooperative Extension in March. The Southeast Dairy Grazing School will be held March 9, 16, and 23, 1995, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Harvest Drive Restaurant, Intercourse, PA.

"We are interested in working with a small group of producers who want to take the time to think about how they will incorporate grazing on the farm, says Glenn Shirk, Extension Agent, Lancaster County. During the workshop, producers will redesign their farm using the soil survey maps. At the end of the workshop, producers will walk away with a plan. We also want them to have the support of their feed dealer and veterinarian. If producers want to develop additional on-farm support throughout the growing season, we intend to discuss that too."

The workshop is limited to 25 participants. The registration fee, due March 1, is \$40.00 for all three meetings and includes the noon meal. For more information, contact Glenn A. Shirk, Lancaster Cooperative Extension Office, 1383 Arcadia Road, Room 1, Lancaster, PA 17601-3149, phone 717-394-6851, FAX 717-394-3962.

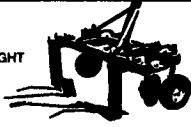
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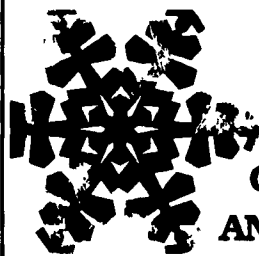
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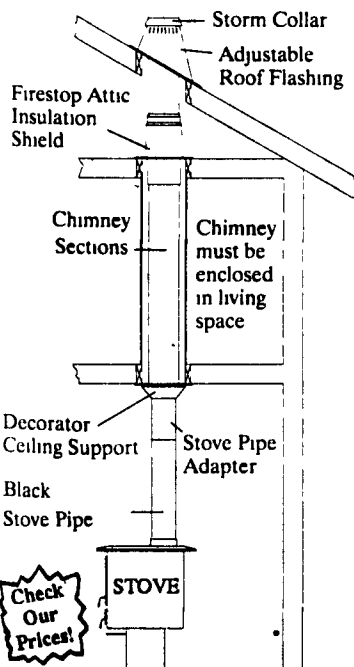
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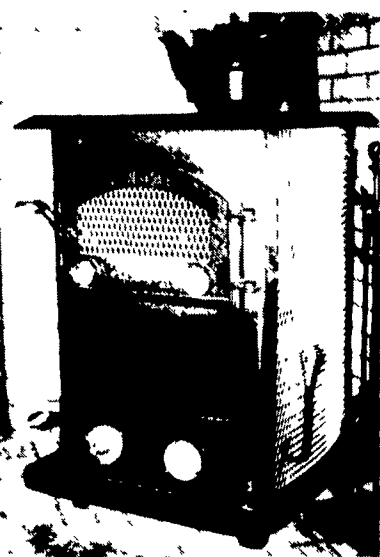
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