

Rachel Tanis

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Granted we have not found any "sire proof guys" knocking at our door to buy our bulls but, we have found that many local farmers are interested in what we have. Another aspect that we find rewarding is when other farmers come and ask us what kind of bulls we are using. We see this as a compliment to our herd and our breeding program.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES: Being involved in the Junior Holstein Association has proved to be rewarding to me. I have always believed that if you did not get involved in some activity you would be missing out on something. Since my first year in 4-H I have been involved on the Dairy Bowl team. Being involved in Dairy Bowl has taught me more about the dairy industry and how the Holstein breed developed than anything else.

Presently I am serving as vice president of the Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Association. I am also serving as co-chair for the ad that Pennsylvania Juniors are putting in the program book along with being on the committee for

finding calves to be sold in the Pennsylvania Spring Sale for a profit for the Juniors. Being involved in the executive committee for the past two years has been a great opportunity for me to meet Juniors from around the state and to hear their ideas.

Another aspect of being a Junior Member in the Holstein Association that I have found rewarding is being able to show cows. I find that being choosy about what to take to certain shows can in the end be worthwhile. My father grew up showing cows and the love of doing it has been passed on to me. Learning how to handle the animals has given me an understanding of what patience means. I have also developed a better eye for cows through this by attending shows and finding out what the judges are looking for.

FUTURE PLANS: Upon completion of Penn State I have all intention to get involved in the dairy industry. Having been behind the scenes the past few months as a Pennsylvania 1st Alternate Dairy Princess, I want to continue to help promote the dairy industry

after graduation. Being a communications representative for the dairy industry group would be ideal. I would find this rewarding in the aspect that I would be giving back to the dairy industry all that it gave me.

I also plan to stay in the dairy business by maintaining my own small herd. I would find this satisfying because I would have the best of both worlds, raising Holsteins and promoting an industry I love. I believe my drive and tenacity would be proven worthy for farmers everywhere because I would not give up on them. We as farmers need to help each other in order to overcome all the walls we must face on a daily basis.

CLOSING: In closing, I believe the Junior Holstein Association has proven invaluable in my future. I have grown to love the Holstein breed and what it represents. Being close to the decisions on the family operation has given me the ability to mature into a breeder and appreciate fine Holstein cattle. And in the future I hope I can instill this admiration on to my children and generations to come.

Finally I will leave you with a quote written by my great-grandfather, Jacob Tanis Sr., a well

known Guernsey breeder at the time. He wrote this in 1952 and I believe it has been passed on through the generations and instilled into me. He said, "It is my belief that a cow man is born and does not acquire this ability only

from education through books. By continually working with and studying cows does he develop this ability. 'As the eye of the master fatteneth the cattle'; so, I believe, it is with the cow man." -Jacob Tanis Sr. 1952.

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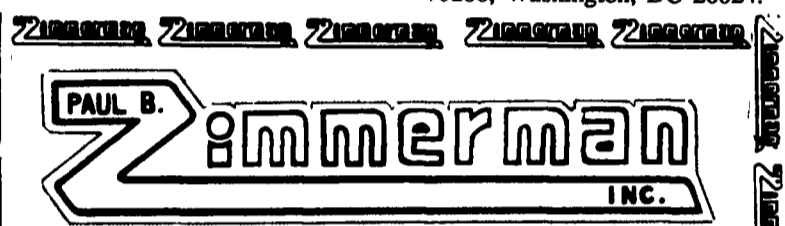
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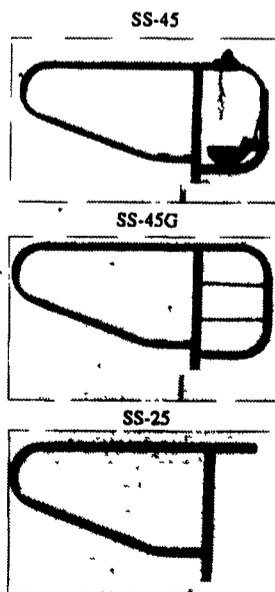
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