

Milking Shorthorns Win Awards For Brother-Sister Team

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While Milking Shorthorns, which originated in England, are the oldest of all dairy breeds, they were not accepted into the American Dairy Association until 1972. At that time, the breed was split with 1/2 becoming dairy cattle and the other 1/2 are raised for beef.

"I have them because my dad had them and he had them because Grandad had them," Chris admits. "And, I'm not certain how he got his shorthorn knowledge."

The Youngs do know that their selected breed takes less maintenance than Holsteins. "And, when you consider the smaller consumption of food, versus the milk production we feel you come out on top," Christine points out.

"We used to house our shorthorns with a herd of Holsteins. The Holsteins saw a vet with much greater frequency. I've never had a shorthorn with a twisted stomach, they don't get milk fever, and they tolerate heat much better than most breeds."

She also feels shorthorns are more even tempered than other breeds and, therefore, easier to handle.

Discouragement over the breed sets in when Chris sees a milking shorthorn passed over for a

supreme award that she feels is well qualified. "We live in a Holstein oriented nation," she says.

"But, we're making progress. This year, a milking shorthorn was supreme champion in Illinois and supreme udder in California competitions.

Nationwide, there are about 600 milking shorthorn members. "As many as there are Holstein members statewide," Chris points out.

National headquarters are in Balart, Wisconsin and are shared with the Brown Swiss Dairy Association.

"Like all breeds, there are good ones and bad ones," Chris says. "To say there are ten bulls contributing to artificial insemination might be an exaggeration," she continues.

"Actually, most breeders get their semen privately."

Chris keeps her breeding records on the computer and checks carefully for genetic qualities before breeding. She accepts help and suggestions from her fiancé, Keith, who gives her hand around the farm when not working for the Blank Book Company in nearby Roaring Springs.

"I've tried flushing more than most shorthorn breeders," Chris admits. "But, with minimal success. Luke has been against me!"

Last year, their herd average was 19,812 pounds and their Gold medal herd is in the top 30% of the milking shorthorn breed.

Horizon Farms is the only milking shorthorn breeder attending all three American Dairy shows.

"This month we will be going to Louisville and Toronto," says Chris. "That takes a lot of scheduled juggling. We will be home for 24 hours between shows and we have to have someone lined up to milk the cows we leave behind as well as figuring out how to get the ones milked we are taking along."

"My aim has always been to have all show cattle," she continues. "That way, I can grab any of my cows for a show and not have to call it all off if one isn't up to par."

Chris and Jimmy do their own clipping and trimming and each cow has a "beauty parlor" finish at all times.

Situation in the picturesque farmland of Morrison's Cove, Chris and Jimmy's show cattle are not the norm.

"There are only a few of us who go from show to show," Chris says. "I know most farmers don't understand it, but showing cattle is the best way I know of to market them."



Chris shows one of her favorite Milking Shorthorn calves.

Brosius Gives Year-End Report

EVERETT NEWSWANGER

Managing Editor

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)

— At a media conference in his office on Tuesday, Pennsylvania Ag Secretary Charles Brosius listed five major accomplishments for PDA in 1996. They include the completion of the state conservation commission's nutrient management regulations; the work in the domestic animal health act; the comprehensive amendments to the Dog Law; the repealing of obsolete language in the consolidated weights and measures act; and the initiation of the hardwoods development council.

In all their efforts, Brosius said the department operated with the idea that education is just as effective as regulation. "We feel we represent the farmer in the administration and in the contacts we make in fulfilling our responsibilities as regulators," Brosius said. "And the farmers were helpful in securing the additional \$4.3 million for Penn State research and extension."

In their efforts to promote export of Pennsylvania products, Brosius said it was important to note that international trade is all around us now through the Philadelphia port of entry. And we need to put Pennsylvania products in this flow. Because American farmers can produce more than our population needs, we need to export the excess to help keep the market price at profitable levels.

Brosius also expressed concern with the on-going trend that small farmers are not going to make it if they are not efficient and have a low debt load. But this is also true for larger farmers.

The International Day at the Farm Show is another attempt by PDA to facilitate exports by inviting foreign buyers to come to Pennsylvania's major showcase of agriculture. On Friday, January 10, a trade show with about 50 businesses will participate at the Hershey Convention Center prior to the annual Farm Show Banquet. Here the foreign buyers will make contact with local exporters. The next day, these buyers will have free run of the farm show to pick and choose who and what they want to see. To date, 105 people from 29 countries have made reser-

vations to come. Unlike last year when many ambassadors from foreign countries came, this year most of those who plan to come are trade and export/import officials.

In a release from the press office, Brosius said the hard work and dedication of Pennsylvania's 50,000 farm families continues to keep agriculture the number one industry of the Commonwealth. With \$3.76 billion in cash receipts, Keystone farmers and agribusinesses are the leading agricultural producers in the northeastern U.S. and some of the most productive in the country.

Agriculture generates an additional \$40 billion annually in related economic activity such as food processing, marketing, transportation, as well as manufacturing all the products and equipment used on the farm.

Milk production is the leading segment of our agricultural industry, with annual sales in 1995 of \$1.47 billion. Pennsylvania's milk production for the same year was 10.5 billion pounds, or 6.8 percent of the nation's total supply. The number of milk cows in the state averaged 642,000 head and the number of commercial dairy farms was 10,800.

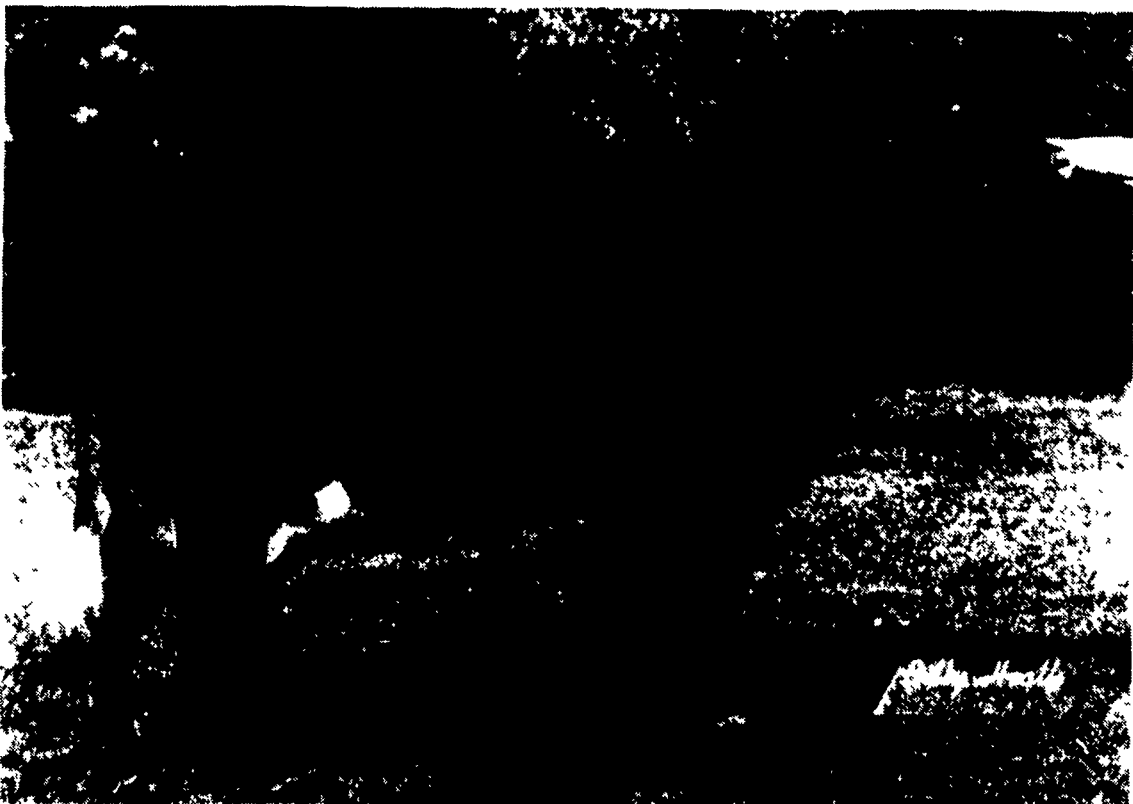
The total value of all cattle, hogs, and sheep on Pennsylvania farms at the end of 1995 was \$1.36 billion, down 7 percent from the previous year. The gross income from beef production on 33,000 farms was \$369.8 million, down 21 percent. Gross income from pork production on 5,500 hog farms was \$132.1 million, and income from sheep production was \$5.2 million for 3,200 sheep farms.

The combined value of Pennsylvania's poultry production from broilers, eggs, and turkeys, plus the value of chicken sales in 1995 was \$563.5 million, a seven percent increase over 1994. Laying flocks produced 5.66 billion eggs for the year and turkey producers raised 11.5 million poult.

The value of agricultural exports from the Keystone state during the last fiscal year were valued at \$413 million. This represents an increase of 13 percent from the \$454 million worth of commodities exported during the previous year.



Innisfall Edda was first in the senior two-year-old class at the World Dairy Expo and had the best udder. She was reserve All-American yearling.



Three Springs Ashley was reserve All-American four-year-old. She has a six year record of 25,663m with 3.4f and 2.9p.