

Holstein Annual Meeting Salutes Nichol, Promotes Raney

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\$3,600 in donations were received last year for the scholarship fund in memory of the late Jack Miller.

Houser related that the Executive Board made a business decision to convey mature funds of \$28,000 from the scholarship Dreyfus fund of \$58,000 to the general fund during 1996, in response to PHA's financial operating deficit. PHA is paying a higher interest rate to the scholarship fund than it had been earning with the monies on certificates, but a lower rate than was being charged on its line of credit.

President Houser noted that more than 1,100 heifers were purchased to fill export orders last spring. The 435 sellers of those animals were paid within 30 days of delivery of their cattle to the export farm. When some of those sales were not completed as quickly as had been anticipated, and more cattle held at the export farm longer than expected, selling expenses rose, leaving the association with an operating deficit for the fiscal year.

Changes in membership fees are being studied by the board, Houser told the 150 business meeting attendees. Membership in PHA was 4,100 in 1996, with more than 3,400 renewals and new members already signed for 1997. Looking ahead to the future, Houser has appointed a planning committee to assess PHA's role in the changing

dairy industry.

In an update on show activities, Houser announced that the annual Spring Holstein Show at Harrisburg will be dedicated to the late J. Arthur Baxter. Baxter, a former state Holstein president, was killed recently in a farm accident at the family's Stoneboro dairy operation.

Houser announced the candidacy of Thomas Kelly for the office of national vice president of the Holstein Association. Kelly, a former national Holstein director from Pennsylvania, operates a registered Holstein herd at Tyrone. During the resolutions portion of the program, PHA delegates unanimously voted to support Kelly's candidacy to the national vice president position. That election will be conducted during the national Holstein annual meeting, to be held in June at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

State Holstein treasurer Dean Johnson, Warren, reviewed the financial reports for fiscal 1996 and the background of the association's operating losses at \$469,000. Payback of those losses is scheduled by the association over the next 10 years. Johnson noted changes being planned in the handling of export cattle orders, including working more closely with exporters who fund the sales with their own capital and contract with PHA for per head fees for se-

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Bill and Lilly Nichol, with their family, show a portrait of the grandchildren presented at Bill's retirement party at the annual Holstein banquet.



Progressive Breeder Registry Award Winners: Seated, Clyde Bishop; L-R, Thomas Lapp, James Burdette, Curtis Day, Elwood Ohlinger, Linda Kisner, David Schuler, Ray Norconk, Duane Hershey and Myron Bonzo.



Progressive Genetic Herd Award Winners; Front, Cindy Welmer, Dale Wack and Oble Snider; Rear, Mike Welmer, Thomas Kelly, John Howard, Ken Umble, Lewis Berkley.



PA Holstein Past and Present Staff: Seated, William Nichol, Middle, Thomas Kelly, Diane Mosher, Michael Welmer and John Howard; Back, David Slusser, William Allen, Kenneth Raney and Jeffrey Harding.



Mark Ogura, representing NOSAWA, a Japanese export company, presents honors to Bill Nichol for work done in exporting cattle.