

Houser, Zimmerman, Named To Holstein Hall Of Fame

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the 1969 state Holstein show.

Among the herd's most notable show cows was Zi-We June Ann Governor, VG-88. She traveled with the state herd on rail to the national show in Iowa and was later chosen first-place state four-year-old.

Active in Holstein roles for many years, Zimmerman chaired the 1965 state convention held in Williamsport, was elected PHA vice president, then moved up to the presidency the following year. He served as a national Holstein delegate for nine years.

A successful dispersal marked a temporary end of the milking herd

in 1970. Zimmerman became a substitute, then a full-time, rural mail carrier, a position he held for 21 years while continuing to farm the land. The 4-H animals of their sons John and William were retained from the sale, and other animals later added to begin building another herd.

Zimmerman is a long-time industry and community activist, working with the Scouts, Mifflinburg School Board, Shrine, Union County Conservation Board and Union County West End Fair Association. He was active in helping to found the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association and served as its president in 1955. He was named Outstanding Young Farmer in 1957, the same year he was awarded an Honorary Keystone Farmer degree.

Glen and Ruth moved from the farm house to their mountain retreat home nearby a new years ago. However, he rises at 4:30 a.m. every morning to make the 20-minute trip to the farm to help John and Will with milking chores. Six grandchildren round out the extended Zimmerman family.

Houser, a Mifflin County native, is the son of Howard and Annie Houser, and grew up near Reedsville, where his father was a sharecropper. When the barn on that farm burned in 1958, the family relocated, purchasing a 287-acre farm in Centre County. Jay also met, and two years later married, Mary Rearick.

Soon after their marriage, Jay and Mary purchased his father's

23 head of registered Holsteins and began their Penn-Dell herd. Over the years they expanded the operation, both cow numbers and facilities, adding a heifer barn, new milking equipment and facilities and 61-tie-stall barn. A recent DHIA test notched the 75-head milking string at an average of 26,369 pounds milk, 1003 fat and 843 protein.

Type quality, along with production, has always been important to the Housers. Their current BAA classification average is 107.8 on 11 Excellents, 24 Very Goods, 27 Good-Plus and 3 Goods.

From their herd, the Housers have bred and developed 142 cows with lifetime production totals over 100,000 pounds of milk, including 30 over 200,000 and a production topper of 310,000 lifetime.

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Junior Holstein public speaking winner Troy Hartle earned a standing ovation at the PHA's annual convention when he cited examples of some lack of ethics in showing competition. The 13-year-old Bellefonte junior member has his future sights set on becoming a journalist.



Olympic Gold Medalist wrestler Kurt Angle, featured speaker at the PHA awards breakfast, graciously signed autographs for admirers, including Sarah Weimer.



PHA Outstanding Young Breeder award winner for 1998 are David and Barb Lentz.

(For additional coverage of the Pennsylvania Holstein Convention in Greensburg, see page 1 of *Lancaster Farming's* February 28, 1998 issue.)

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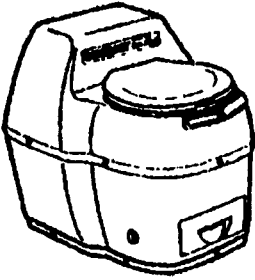
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