

Md. Brown Swiss Breeders Celebrate

CYNTHIA WARNER
President

Md. Brown Swiss Association
FREDERICK, Md. — "The best year in the history of the breed — 1998 will be remembered as a great year for Brown Swiss."

That was the clear and enthusiastic message of John Meyer, executive secretary of the National Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders Association, who spoke at the recent annual meeting of the Maryland Brown Swiss Association.

Total Brown Swiss registrations for 1998 were 11,494; the largest number of registrations recorded in years.

Transfers were also up, as 5,406 head were transferred in 1998, and nearly 1,000 people purchased their very first Brown Swiss.

"Also, over 200 new breeders in two years is another real testimonial to the nationwide interest in Brown Swiss," Meyer said.

Currently, the Brown Swiss cow is the hottest commodity in the registered dairy market. "The demand on the domestic front is extremely high," Meyer added.

"Their demand is high due to the breed's longevity, production, and their ability to milk over a longer period of time."

"There are many 'Black & White' breeders adding Brown Swiss to their herds," said Meyer. "The MCP (Multiple Component Pricing) has a great deal to do with the growth we are seeing because Brown Swiss have this higher component advantage built in."

Meyer also noted 1998 was the first year since 1990 that the Association made a profit, and gave credit to the National Board for their vision and courage to change the financial condition.

"(The board's) commitment to making sound business plans, plotting a roadmap for success, downsizing where necessary, cooperative programs with other breeds, and gaining stability in management were the main factors in turning the association around," he said.

"The results are showing in the bottom line, and also in the demand for Brown Swiss, which points to a bigger and brighter future for the breed."

"The success of the Brown Swiss Association is in participation and staying involved — and that's what breeders in the state associations are doing, just like here in Maryland," Meyer said.

Meyer also commended Maryland breeders for putting the time and energy into the National Ayrshire and Brown Swiss Convention to be hosted in Maryland.

"Marylanders were real visionaries to get two breeds together for a national convention — the first time it's been done — and you are receiving a lot of national attention and recognition for your forward thinking as we approach the 21st century. I know it's a challenge, and I know it's going to be a great convention."

In other business, Maryland Brown Swiss youth directors Howard and Norma Fleming, and youth advisor Becky Long Chaney, presented junior awards.

Highlighting the evening was the announcement of the Maryland record book winners, who were: Amanda Valentine, senior winner; Mary Kathryn Archer, intermediate winner; and Suzanne Purdue, junior winner.

A \$500 scholarship was presented to Nicholas Culler, who attends Delaware Valley College, majoring in landscaping and horticulture.

Jason Fleming received a savings bond for being the top candy

salesman for the Maryland Junior's spring fund-raising activity.

The juniors honored two individuals who have been instrumental in the success of Maryland's dairy youth program, and the Maryland Brown Swiss Association. Recipients were recognized for their dedicated service. They were John Morris and Dr. Lee Majeskie.

Production award winners were also recognized.

Scott and Judy Hood of Middletown, Maryland, won for top production among herds with 10 or more cows. Joy and Tom Crothers of Oxford won second place honors.

Leah and Mike Birch were the top winners among milking herds with nine or fewer cows. John and Julie Mayer won second place.

High producing cows were recognized according to age of animal. The top producing junior 2-year-old was owned by Dwayne Bell; the top senior 2-year-old was

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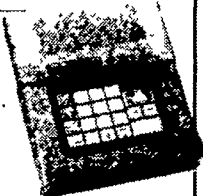
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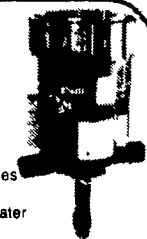
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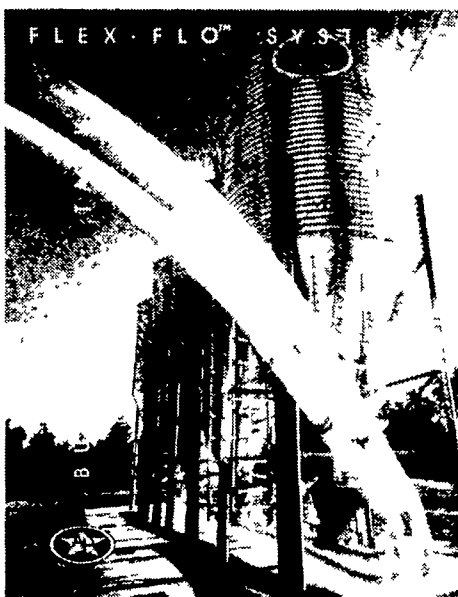
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