

# Lynncrest Farm To Receive National Holstein Young Breeder Award

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recognizes — that they have demonstrated a fair amount of Holstein breeding achievement and success, as well as sound farm business management, and that they have been fortunate to have been able to work for 18 years in the pursuit of establishing and maintaining a solid reputation for producing and selling good registered Holstein animals and genetics.

And they know what it doesn't mean — that they are better people than others.

"It's a very prestigious award," Kirby said. "When we think of how many outstanding breeders

there are, not only in Pennsylvania, but the United States, and to be selected is a great honor. Probably the highlight of our career so far."

Sheryl said that they have been very fortunate and they are very grateful for their blessings, and thankful to God for providing them with opportunities to find some success to support themselves and their children, as well as for the many people they've come to know through Holstein breeding and dairying.

They said they are very grateful for the people they've met who've become friends and mentors.

Kirby said that as much as anything, they attribute their success



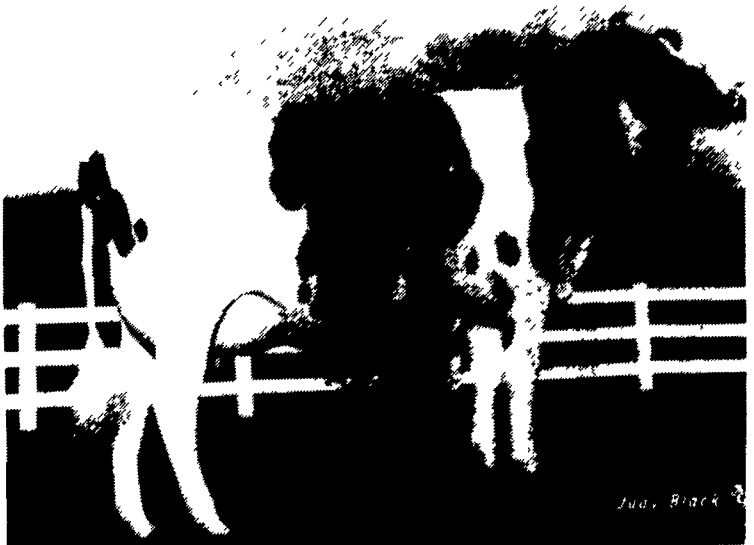
One of the prolific flush cows purchased by Lynncrest Holsteins is Windcrest Leadman Jessie-ET. She was purchased as a calf, and produced 17 sons for sale into artificial insemination units, and 55 embryos that sold internationally. She also gave farm owners Sheryl and Kirby Horst a daughter that also produced well and provided daughters that have generated interest from AI units and embryo marketing firms.



From top to bottom, is dam, daughter and granddaughter, all carrying the Lynncrest Holstein prefix. This cow family brings special satisfaction to Kirby and Sheryl Horst, owners of Lynncrest Holsteins and winners of the 1998 national Holstein Distinguished Young Breeder award. This top gal is Lynncrest Stan Haley, the first 40,000-pound milk per lactation producer for the Horsts, as well as the matron of their homebred flushing and embryo marketing effort. The cow family is noted for high fat components. Haley's production has averaged about 4 percent fat per lactation.



Lynncrest Stan Haley was crossed with Highlight Converse-ET to produce this Lynncrest Converse Happy-ET cow. Happy, also pictured with the family on the front page, has been a strong producer of fertilized eggs for the Horst family. She also produced good daughters. Her fat production has averaged about 5-percent.



One of the daughters of Happy, Lynncrest Bellwood Halfpint has become a top producing cow for the embryo marketing business done by Kirby and Sheryl Horst of Lynncrest Holsteins. Halfpint's first lactation as a 2-year-old was 4.6 percent.

to the support of many people in the Holstein community, especially some of the local Holstein breeders, such as Nelson Troutman, Andy Stoltzfus, etc., and others, who over the years shared ideas and information, and provided insights to opportunities for possible progress.

The couple, in their mid- to late 30s, said they are very excited about the honor and the upcoming trip to Boise.

They know the strength of the competition in vying for the award, and they know that many Holstein breeders before them, many not only in Pennsylvania, but nationally and internationally, have helped pave the way in creating a Holstein industry with breed value, and in providing and proving sound advice for ways to improve the breed.

For all Pennsylvania Holstein breeders, the Horsts' win also adds to the state's reputation and prestige.

The win marks the fourth time the award was presented to a Pennsylvania Holstein breeder since the national recognition program was begun in 1990.

Past winners include John and Sue Howard of Willow Street, Lancaster County; Steve and Chris Wood of Littlestown, Adams County; and Lloyd and Denise Pease of Susquehanna County.

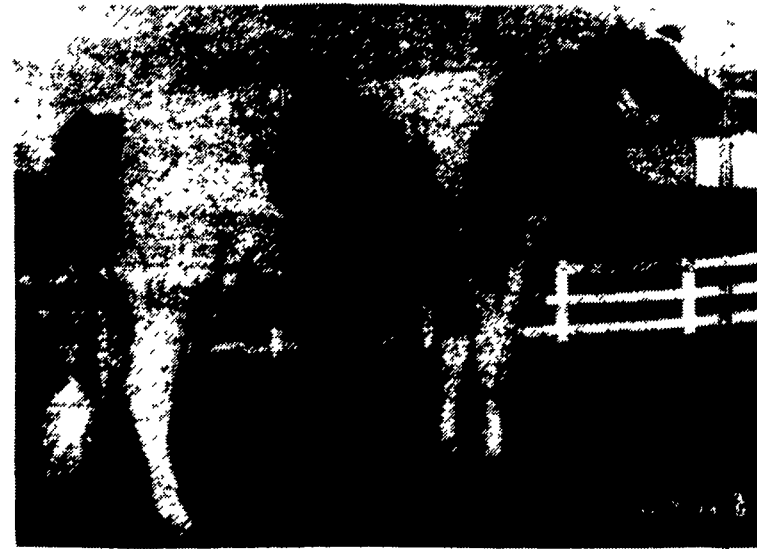
The Horsts are also the third breeding operation from Lebanon County to win the state title.

It also means the Horsts have made some personal sacrifices, made some decisions about how to manage their farm and lives, and took some risks and were fortunate enough to have enough luck on their side with regard to dealing with those things over which they have no control.

But they have been working hard to minimize those things they cannot control.

For them that means communicating with the rest of the industry, as well as attempting to stay in touch with the rest of the world, being aggressive marketers of their cattle and promoters of the dairy industry, and doing their homework.

The Horsts were featured by *Lancaster Farming* a couple of years ago because of their involve-



Daughter of Windcrest Leadman Jessie-ET, this is Lynncrest Mountain Jamaica-ET. She carries a 90-pound plus protein index, and has seven sons headed to AI units as well as 25 embryos exported internationally.

ment and successes with flushing high-indexing cows for merchandising embryos.

One of their donor cows, purchased at a national sale, was producing embryos in strong demand internationally. She was providing the Horsts with a good number of fertilized eggs for transplanting into recipient cows.

At the time, some may have considered that the Horsts were merely lucky.

It could have been one of those once-in-a-lifetime, happy turns of events, that can be short-lived and mysterious when they disappear.

But in the intervening years, the Horsts have established a herd and breeding track record of successes that has continued to grow, and the Horsts have been able to continue in the dairy industry with a bright outlook.

While the majority of their farm income comes from the sale of milk, the money they have made in merchandising cattle has given them a healthy boost toward achieving their long-term goal of paying off early the 95-tillable acre farm they purchased from Kirby's family in April 1995.

Dedication to their business and farm is also an expression of their stronger dedication and desire to be a family and raise their children on a farm.

"There is nothing more satisfying than raising a family on a dairy farm," Sheryl said.

"Our children enjoy the many wonders of nature on the farm. Our two daughters, Channele (13) and Chelsea (10), are involved in 4-H and enjoy showing their 4-H calves at local, district, and state shows.

"Chad enjoys riding bike and playing with the dogs — just being an ordinary active 6-year-old — but looks forward to showing a 4-H calf," she said.

"Raising the kids on the farm is the ultimate," Kirby said. "We wouldn't want to give up that lifestyle for anything."

In their award application, the Horsts stated, "Having registered Holsteins has, and will, give our children so many opportunities and benefits in 4-H and the Junior Holstein clubs. Each child learns valuable lessons in training a calf, and it sure is fun watching our kids show."

Averaging about a 55-cow milking string, they have no cows in the herd with a classification under 82 points. The herd has 13 Excellent cows, and that all combines to give them a BAA of 110.5 percent — a rating that ranks them third in the state and in the top 35 nationally.

(A BAA is a measure of the breed average classification by age group. A herd BAA is a way to recognize a herd of better than average breeding by comparing the classification of all of the animals to the current total average age

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