

Lyncrest Farm To Receive National Holstein Young Breeder Award

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classification of the breed.)

In the Horsts' application for the award, they reported that 1998 was good to them — at the time the herd was averaging 23,522 pounds of milk, but the end-of-year Pa.DHIA results (September 1998) showed a slightly higher average; they had their first 40,000-pound lactation cow; and they sold their first bull to Japan, and their 64th bull in artificial insemination.

According to the Horsts, they breed three different strategies within their herd — some are bred for index for genetic merchandis-

ing; others are bred for deep pedigree and type; and they also breed red & white Holsteins.

"For our herd, we feel the best way to reach goals is through a balanced blend of various kinds of genetics," Kirby said.

"After each sire summary, we like to select a group of bulls that are going to fill the needs of our herd, whether that may be index, contract animals, extreme type bulls, Red and White bulls, or the most marketable genetics.

"When selecting bulls, we consider udder; foot and leg composites; milk, fat and protein pounds. We like to use high-TPI bulls to

satisfy our type concerns.

"We reevaluate and upgrade our requirements for bulls we are considering, and try to gather as much information as possible on prospective mating sires.

"We like to use the Red Book and information from AI (artificial insemination) organizations, as well as information we can gather from other breeders who might have seen some daughters of a particular sire.

"The last several years, we have placed strong emphasis on percent fat and protein, which has paid great dividends with some very marketable genetics."

They also acknowledged that they have been lucky.

"Breeding cattle is not an exact science, a little luck is needed as well. We enjoy working with great looking cows and expect our 2-year-olds to score high Good Plus, or Very Good in their first lactation, and Excellent by their third or fourth lactation.

"One ingredient of a good breeder not mentioned so far, is the ability to find a promising animal at a sale, to have an eye for a young cow that has potential to grow and mature into a fantastic individual.

"We've had the good fortune of finding several of those 'diamonds

in the rough' over the past few years for bargain prices. Most of these animals were purchased as bred heifers, or unscored 2-year-olds."

Kirby said that the first 10 years of farming for he and Sheryl was fairly similar to others getting started.

But he enjoyed registered Holsteins, and breeding and seeing improvements. It's something that gives him a reward, and keeps his interest.

He said purchasing Windcrest Leadman Jessie-ET as a calf got them started into merchandising.

Jessie is a Very Good 89-point cow with an Excellent mammary. The Horsts sold 17 sons from her in AI and 55 embryos internationally. They also kept four daughters.

One of the daughters, Lyncrest Mountain Jamaica-ET, a Very Good 88 with an Excellent mammary and a 90-pound protein index has proven to be prolific.

But the cow family that they've been working with more, and that brings them more personal satisfaction is founded on a 3-month-old calf purchased for \$800, Len-Lyn Winken Hope, VG-88, Ex-mammary.

They have four of her daughters, and one has produced especially well, Lyncrest Bell Boss Haley, VG-88, VG-mammary.

The three daughters have done well — Lyncrest Slocum Halo-ET, VG-88, Ex-mammary at 3 years; Lyncrest Slocum Holy-ET, VG-86, Ex-mammary at 3 years; and Lyncrest Majic Hillary, GP-83 VG-86 mammary at 1-10, a potential bull mother.

But Haley was their first homebred breeder. They flushed her as a virgin heifer and got Lyncrest Converse Happy-ET, Ex-91, Ex-mammary, with a first lactation record of 2-2, 365-day, 28,440 pounds milk, 1,413 pounds, or 5-percent fat, 990 pounds, or 3.2 percent protein.

Happy has become their most heavily contracted cow. She was the first homebred VG-89 Ex-mammary 2-year-old.

She has been successfully flushed resulting in 140 fertilized embryos recovered. Sixty-four of those were sold internationally, and 14 sons were sold to A.I.

Two of her sons have gone to Japan, one to Germany and 11 to United States AI units.

Eleven daughters were sold and 10 remain on the farm.

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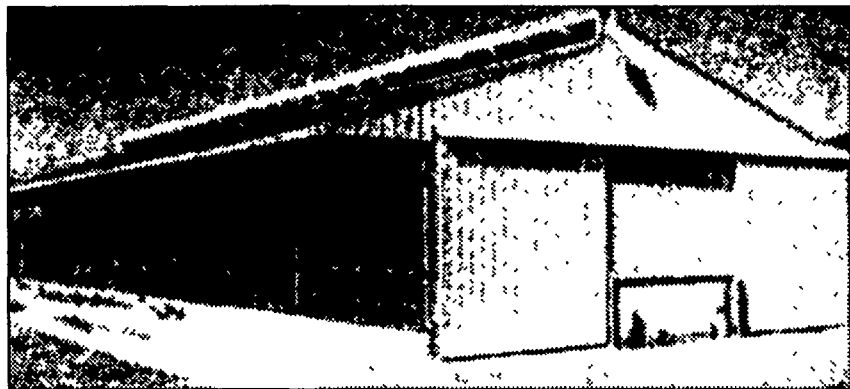
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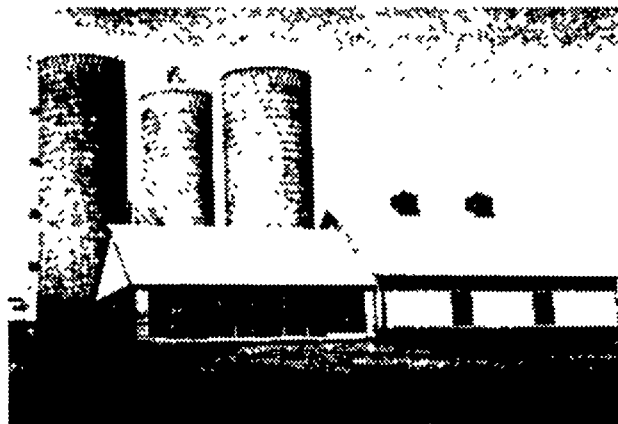
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