

# Dairy Shrine Honors Three Industry Pioneers

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Three dairy industry pioneers have been selected to receive Pioneer Awards from National Dairy Shrine, the "Hall of Fame" of the dairy industry. The three men are: Dr. John Almquist, State College, Pa., who will be the third person to be honored as a "Living" Pioneer; Dr. Elmer Woelffer, Oconomowoc, Wis. and Dr. Kenneth Turk, Ithaca, N.Y.

All will be honored at the 50th Anniversary banquet of National Dairy Shrine on Sept. 30 in Madison, Wis., in conjunction with World Dairy Expo. Thereafter, their portraits will be displayed at the National Dairy Shrine Visitors' Center and Museum at Fort Atkinson, Wis., along with the 244 previous "Pioneer" honorees.

### Dr. John Almquist

Dr. John Almquist is well known internationally for his work in artificial insemination (AI) and reproductive physiology of cattle. He has authored more than 165 research papers in scientific and professional journals and proceedings, with much of his early work dealing with methods of semen preservation and means of extending the usefulness of genetically superior sires through AI.

Dr. Almquist was the first person to demonstrate the value of adding penicillin and streptomycin to diluted bull semen to control bacterial growth and increase fertility. As a result, antibiotics are used universally by the AI industry and a substantial increase in breeding efficiency has been re-

alized all over the world.

He also pioneered the use of milk-base extenders to prolong the fertile life of bull spermatozoa. Later, he added glycerol to milk to develop an improved liquid diluent which permitted semen to retain high fertility over a long period.

On another aspect, his research showed behavioral preparation of bulls significantly increased the number of sperm that can be harvested for use in artificial insemination.

Almquist received his bachelor's degree from Cornell, his master's from Purdue and his doctorate from Penn State. He taught at Penn State from 1944 until 1982 and was an outstanding teacher and researcher. He received the Wolf Foundation Prize for Agriculture in 1981, the highest scientific honor for agriculture in the world. His many other honors include the NAAB research award and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Penn State in 1997.

Dr. Almquist and his wife, Norma, a retired teacher of home economics, have three children, two daughters and a son.

### Dr. Kenneth Turk (1908-1990)

Dr. Kenneth Turk, Ithaca, N.Y., had a remarkable career as professor of dairy husbandry and then head of the department at the University of Maryland, followed by 18 years as head of the Animal Husbandry Department at Cornell University. During that time, he continued to teach an outstanding course in dairy cattle. He then became the first director of interna-

tional agriculture in any college in the United States. He retired in 1974.

In addition to his service as an administrator during 34 years of his 40-year career, Dr. Turk authored or co-authored 70 scientific or scholarly articles and research bulletins in the field of animal science. He also published more than 300 semi-technical or popular articles on a variety of livestock subjects.

Perhaps Dr. Turk's outstanding single achievement was the University of the Philippines-Cornell Graduate Education Program, sponsored by the Ford Foundation. Dr. Turk ably assisted in many areas by Mrs. Turk (Bernice), joined with the faculty and administration of the College of Agriculture, University of the Philippines and the faculty and students from Cornell, to develop a modern graduate education program in a modern university setting. This great College of Agriculture, University of the Philippines provides educational leadership in Southeast Asia as well as in the Philippines.

Dr. Turk developed the graduate assistant concept, which has been accepted by others as standard educational procedure. Interested graduate students have an opportunity for thesis research under supervision in an international program.

He also developed the organization of the Directors of International Agricultural Programs in U.S. land grant universities, a concept that has resulted in a vi-

able organization that, among other duties, advises the deans of the colleges of agriculture and serves in a similar capacity to national organizations, including the Department of State.

One of the nominators of Dr. Turk wrote, "Few people in the world have had greater influence on the dairy industry than Dr. Turk. He was highly respected by the agricultural and government leaders of New York and the nation."

### Dr. Elmer Woelffer (1897-1995)

Dr. Elmer Woelffer's contributions to the dairy industry were not only as a dairy cattle veterinarian but also as a herdsman and showman of great cattle. Born in Wisconsin, he received his bachelor's from the University of Wisconsin and his Ph.D. from Cornell.

He worked as a herdsman, showman and in sales for many elite Holstein, Guernsey, and Jersey herds from 1922 to 1927. After graduating from vet school, he became manager and veterinarian for the company-owned farms of the largest milk company, H.P. Hood in New England for 16 years.

Quality milk production and sales were always foremost in his mind.

From Hood dairies, he went into teaching at the University of Illinois for two years, then became veterinarian and vice president of Pabst Farms in Oconomowoc, Wis., from 1950-1952. From then until his death, he conducted a consulting practice, specializing

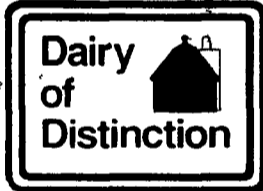
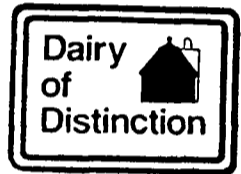
in bovine fertility. He was still practicing in 1995 at the age of 97!

Through 30 of those years, Dr. Woelffer became well known as the veterinary editor for Hoard's Dairyman, contributing hundreds of articles educating dairy farmers and veterinarians. He also spoke at many veterinary and dairy cattle meetings in the United States and in foreign countries.

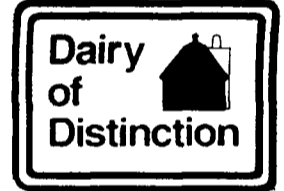
During his career, Dr. Woelffer received several distinguished service awards and the Amstutz-Williams Award from the Bovine Practitioners Association of America in 1994, the highest award given by this group of veterinarians. Only six persons have received this award. Woelffer was named the Industry Person of the Year by World Dairy Expo in 1983 and received the Klussendorf Award in 1993.

One nominator wrote: "Dr. Woelffer was an admired gentleman and veterinarian. He showed compassion for everyone he came in contact with . . . and this same quality was evident in his resourcefulness when working on livestock."

Dr. Woelffer and his wife, Marian, were married for 64 years. They had three daughters, Judith, Nancy and Linda.

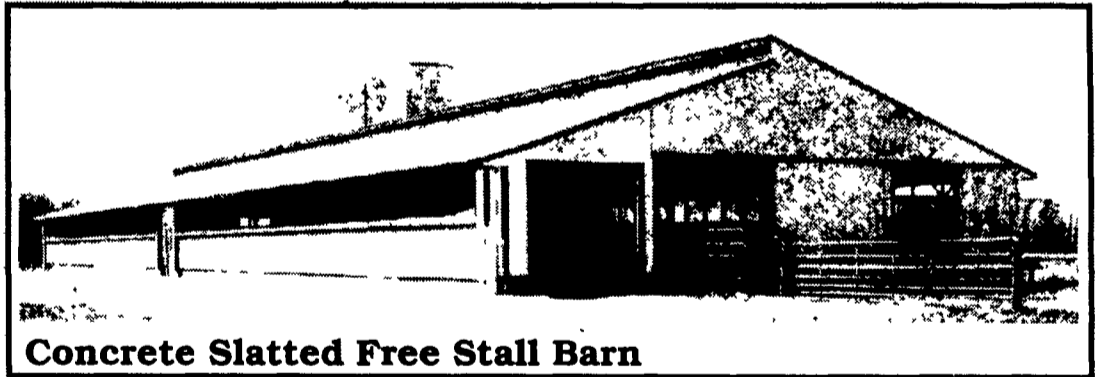


## Congratulations To All Of This Year's Dairy Of Distinction Award Winners...

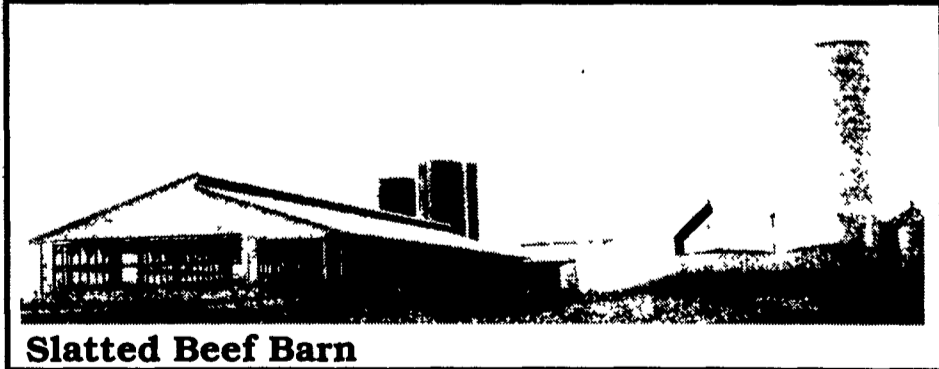


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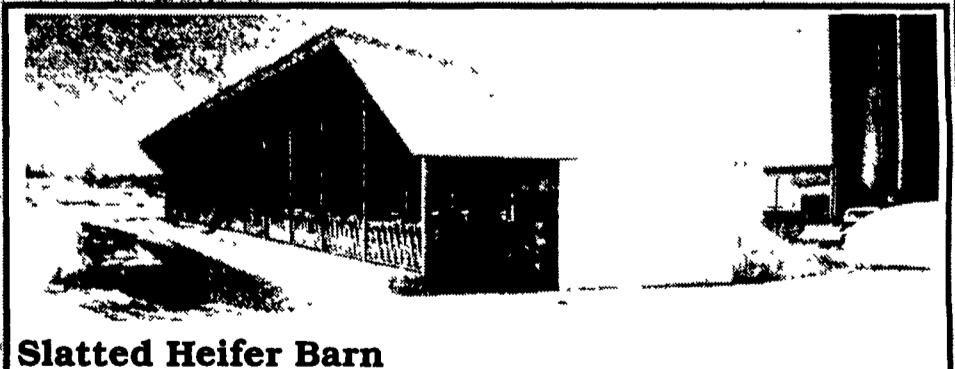
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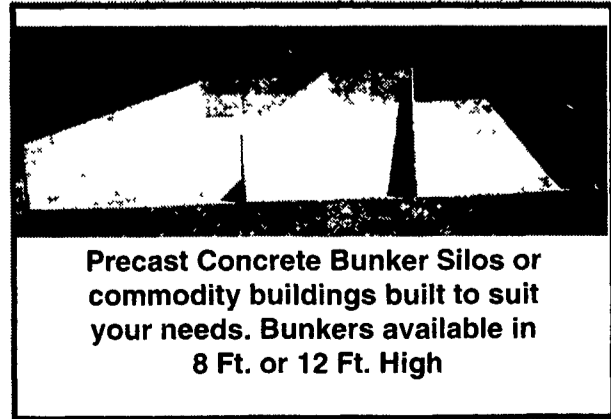
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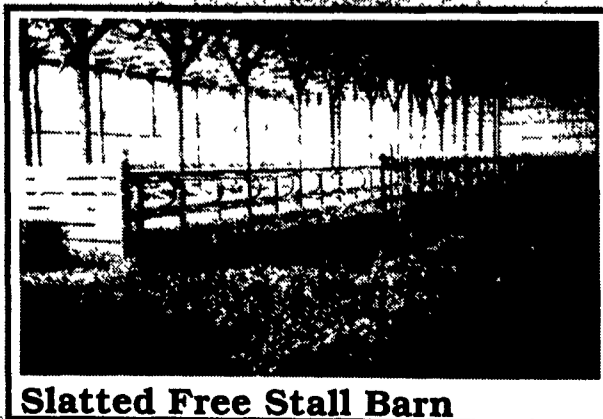
Slatted Beef Barn



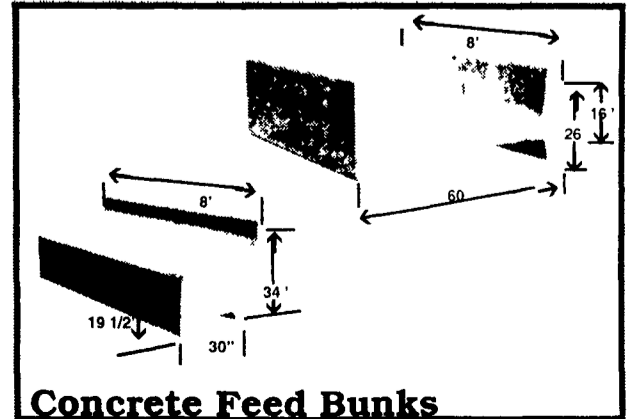
Slatted Heifer Barn



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Slatted Free Stall Barn



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