

## Holstein Association Announces 2000 Distinguished Young Holstein Breeder Winners

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — Holstein Association USA's 2000 Distinguished Young Holstein Breeders, Scott Pralle and Pam Selz-Pralle, have successfully developed an outstanding Registered Holstein herd while managing a progressive dairy.

The 420-head herd has a rolling herd average of 27,244 pounds of milk, 1010 pounds of fat, and 844 pounds of protein with a BAA of 105 percent.

Scott and Pam explain that "we believe we have to be good dairy producers before we can hope to be successful Holstein

breeders." This motto guides their work of producing high quality milk from cows with "above-average genetic indexes with high actual performance and outstanding type from udders that last and wear."

Their goal is to develop a herd that is in the top 10 percent of the nation genetically while maximizing the profitability of the dairy operation. This has forced them to make some tough decisions on identifying the profitable cows in the herd.

"Excellent scored cows that are open after a year no longer

have a home here. For young people paying for a farm, profitability became a higher priority than BAA or classification statistics."

The breeding program at Selz-Pralle Dairy is based on the selection of top bulls for use on the strongest cow families in the barn. "We've concentrated on breeding above-average genetic indexes with high actual performance and outstanding type from udders that work and wear," they explained. "We prefer a slightly shorter cow with dairy strength,

width, well-attached udders and excellent mobility. Our functional cow would score 83-87 points and have a high VG udder," they noted.

To date they have bred or developed 11 GMD and 16 DOM winners, 22 Leader List cows, and 52 Locator list cows. Scott and Pam have also bred or developed 87 Excellent cows — 32 2E, 8 3E and 1 4E — and have won the PBR and PGA awards a number of times.

Pam and Scott rank their customers as follows: dairy plant, bull buyer, female buyer, and embryos. This allows them to set priorities for their operation and their breeding

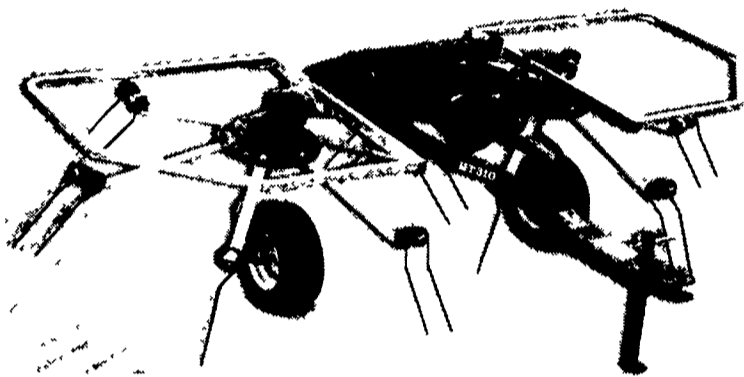
program. A close look at the costs and risks associated with genetic marketing has led Pam and Scott to focus on live animal sales. They are also looking at the emerging "biosecurity market."

They have carefully managed and documented the health status of the herd and use it as a marketing point with other dairy producers. This "value-added"

approach has already had a positive affect on their bulls sales. Selz-Pralle Dairy markets more than 100 bulls a year and is able to obtain a premium by selling sons of BVD and Johnes negative cows.

The Distinguished Young Holstein Breeder program is administered by the Holstein Association.

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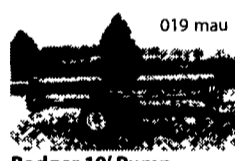
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