Executive Secretary
David Kendall

THOUGHTS From The Secretary

The last major trait is the Udder System. On the new scorecard this will be the most familiar description to breeders. However, there are a couple of changes in emphasis. The first is the tea-cup, non-productive, money losing udder. In the past an extremely shallow, narrow rear pint-size udder with central teat placement and strong attachments was rewarded whether it had adequate capacity or not. Under the new system the cute udders that cannot feed a kitten, make money for the breeder or entice new dairy producers because they can see that there is very little milk being produced into the breed, will not gain points. In most cases this will affect primarily two-year olds. IF the heifer calves in again and IF she develops capacity in her second or later lactations, at that time she will gain points in the Udder System.

The other change is in rear udder. Since it is important to be both productive and to have a long productive life, it is imperative that the rear udder have as uniform a width from the bottom to the top of the udder. The top of the rear udder is where the (secretory) tissue blends into the body. Rear udder width and height is measured at this point. It is very important to note that in most cases, the widest point of the rear udder maybe quite a bit below the top of the rear udder. On occasion we see udders that may score an 8 if measured at the widest point but as low as a 4 if measured at the top of the rear udder. While there are always exceptions, these type of udders that are narrow at the top and much wider lower down have a real tendency to come apart in a low number of lactations. The other subtle change is in rear udder height. Research has established that rear udder width has been found to be much more important to Productive Life than rear udder height. Under the new system the result is that a cow will not be penalized for lacking a bit in rear udder height. However, if two cows are standing side by side both with an 8 in rear udder width with one a 5 in rear udder height and the other an 9, the one with the 9 will gain "chrome" points. Do not take this as an absolute only as an example; the first may score a 92 while the second scores a 94 in Udder System.

Udder System

Udder traits receive the highest score card emphasis. Traits that contribute to high milk yield and a long productive life in Brown Swiss receive major consideration. Listed in priority order, descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

Udder Depth-moderate depth relative to the hock with adequate capacity and clearance. Consideration is given to lactation number and age. 9%

Fore Udder-firmly attached with moderate length and adequate capacity. 7%

Rear Udder-wide and high, firmly attached with uniform width from the top to the bottom and fullness at the base of the rear udder where it turns to become the udder floor 6%.

Teat Placement-squarely placed under each quarter, plumb and properly spaced from side and rear views. 5%

Teats-cylindrical shape and uniform in size with medium length and diameter. 5%

Udder Cleft-evidence of a strong median suspensory ligament indicated by adequately defined halving. 4%

Udder Balance and Texture-should exhibit an udder floor that is level as viewed from the side. Quarters should be evenly balanced; soft, pliable and well collapsed after milking. 4%

Now back to our three favorite cows. Beginning with the walking round pounds of hamburger, this is one of those cows that has a wonderful little tea set size udder. Strong attachments (they have not been challenged by production); her coarse, fat thighs not really allowing any room even if she thought about producing. While the linears show a 9 in udder depth, fore udder attachment and cleft with wonderful teat size, quality and placement; she is a 2 in rear udder width and height. This is a heifer that gets hit very hard in udder depth for LACK OF CAPACITY. She scores a 55. If you note above, the description of fore udder also includes "adequate capacity". While a 9 in the linear for attachment she is a 55 for the category. For her rear udder, well, what rear udder, down to a 50. However, she must get credit for the correct parts, a 94 for teat placement, a 91 for teats, a 90 for cleft and an 88 for balance and texture. The ugly one gains a 70 in the udder system.

The bean pole is a bit of different category. She carries her udder high but with adequate capacity. For udder depth she gets an 85. Her fore udder could be tighter and, her in case, shows a bit to much capacity for her age. In this critical area the tall one receives a 76. In the rear udder she could be a bit wider at the top of the udder, being wider at the bottom than at the top. And, even though she is quite high in her rear udder attachment this lack of uniform width impacts her enough to end up at an 82 for rear udder. This heifer is a bit wide in her front teat placement, with the teats a bit long and thick. For these two traits she is awarded a 77 and a 75 respectively.

Her udder floor is tending towards being flat getting a 70 for udder cleft. Her udder is balanced however it lacks some in quality giving her an 80. For the Udder System she gets a 79.

Now we come to the stylish cow; a cow with a beautfully balanced udder with silky quality but lacking in udder cleft. For udder depth a 91 is appropriate with a 92 for fore udder and a 91 for rear udder. In the latter she could use a bit more height to go higher but has the width throughout that we seek. Her teat placement could be just a bit more central getting an 88 while the teats themselves are of ideal size, shape and quality gaining a 95. Her udder cleft is lacking; enough to only gather a 74. However, the udder balance and texture are superb gaining a 94. For her final Udder System score the stylish cow gets a 90. Next time we will see how the three fare in final score with the new system. Until then with the Brown Cow with the low somatic cell—Brown Swiss. Dave

SMA Carriers Identified

In keeping with the Brown Swiss Association policy of notifying breeders of genetic abnormality carriers, it has been determined that **SCF Starbuck Jesse ET (M*) 197211 and Fashion Star Frosty ET (M*) 197103** are carriers of the recessive gene known as SMA(Spinal Muscle Atrophy).

To be identified as a carrier of the SMA gene, an animal must have at least two offspring that have been determined to be SMA and these offspring must be DNA typed to identify parentage, tested at a 90% confidence level or higher as being a carrier with the DNA test, or tested positive with the new SMA marker test.

To help identify abnormality carriers, breeders are asked to contact the Brown Swiss Association to report abnormal animals in their herd.