

United Breeders head for a million calves



KEN MURRAY, ACTON, examines some bull semen under the microscope before giving it the go ahead for freezing. Murray represents Halton on the United Breeders Board of Directors.

United Breeders is not only in a rather unusual business it also goes about it in a somewhat irregular manner.

The Guelph based firm with a Halton office is in the business of collecting, freezing and distributing the sperm of genetically superior bulls and also performs artificial insemination services with this sperm.

United Breeders did business totaling over a million dollars last year and yet didn't make a cent of profit. Well that isn't exactly accurate. They made \$200,000 profit but that money went the route of all other profits in their five and a half year history, right back into the company. United Breeders is a non-profit operation.

United Breeders, which came into existence on December 1, 1968, is operated under the watchful eyes of a board of directors. There is one director from each of the 15 central and western Ontario counties which it serves. Ken Murray, Acton, represents Halton and Art McKane, who lives near Glen Williams, represents Peel. The United Breeders Branch Office at Ashgrove serves Peel and Halton Counties.

The real owners of the company are the farmers who live in each county. "Virtually everyone joins because a lifetime membership only costs \$5," said Don Fortune of United Breeders, Guelph.

United Breeders was born in 1968 with the merger of the Central Ontario, Waterloo, and Lambton Cattle Breeder Associations. The Central Ontario Association, Maple, Ontario, served the Georgetown area before United Breeders came into existence.

They keep 185 bulls at their 235 acre farm just north of Guelph. The majority are Holstein but they also have the more exotic breeds such as Charolais.

United Breeders generally works only with cattle but they have done some breeding with goats, swine, and horses.

Also at the Guelph office is the Ontario Association of Animal Breeders, the official exporting agent of frozen semen for Canada. Members of the Association include United and the Western and Eastern Ontario Breeding Associations. Last year the O.A.A.B. or Semex Canada, as it is also known, exported 1,468,762 doses of cattle semen all around the world and that was an increase of 14.8 percent over the year before making Canada a leading exporting nation.

In addition they also sent out \$567,000 worth of semen to other parts of Canada outside of their own service area. Last year 183,443 cows in their service area were inseminated by the firm's 75 technicians and by the end of this year they will have been responsible for over a million pregnancies during their brief history. Over 100,000 of last year's pregnancies were in the Holstein line. They produce over a million doses of semen each year.

Besides their regular customers in Halton and Peel the local office also serves Modern Ova Trends, Norval. Modern Ova Trends is in the ovary transfer business and most of their cattle are inseminated by semen provided by United Breeders.

"Only one bull in five is a real herd improver so we have to continue to buy more animals and sink more of the money we make into im-

proving our stud stock or our facilities," Fortune said. Because it is a non-profit organization it is able to provide the services of a \$20,000 bull for only \$8, he added.

The \$6 fee covers all four attempts and it costs \$8 for those who are not members of the Association. Fortune pointed out that the cost might be a little more for a really prized bull. There are seven technicians at the Georgetown office.

At any time when a farmer spots one of his cows in heat and phones in he will have a choice of about 100 different bulls to play the role of father. United Breeders generally works only with cattle but they have done some breeding with goats, swine, and horses.

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Halton judgers

By Henry J. Stanley
Eleven young people from Halton competed in the C.N.E. Junior Judging Competition at the C.N.E. on Thursday, August 29. This competition consisted of nine classes—Dairy, Beef, Sheep, Swine, Horses, Barley, Hay, Corn Growing Quiz, and Seed and Plant Identification.

Winner of the Senior Division was Ken McNabb, R.R. 2, Georgetown, with 294 out of 300. In the Junior Division, for those 15-17 years of age, Bill Allison of Georgetown placed seventh. Some 300 boys and girls from counties and regions in this part of the province took part. There was a competition for teams of five people from one county or region. The Halton team of Ken McNabb, Cecil Patterson, Bill Allison, Lynne Stewart and Nancy McKinnon placed third. The top two teams were from Weillington County.

Proud

There were some 60 Holstein herds in Halton on Record of Performance in 1973 and another 21 herds on Dairy Herd Improvement Testing in Halton in 1973.

The winner for the first time was W. J. Proud, 3369 Burnhamthorpe Rd. W., R.R. 2, Oakville.

The runner-up was Fred Nurse, R.R. 2, Georgetown. The Nurse herd had previously won this in three of the past years and was runner-up the other year.



SURODANA ESQUIRE is one of the top young bulls at United Breeders. He belongs to Howard Tarzwell, Georgetown, and has fathered 176 calves.

Smaller show

Holstein winners

The C.N.E. Holstein show, judged August 28 in Toronto by William Grieve of Dorchester, languished both in number of cattle shown and spectator interest this year. Eighty-four head shown by 30 exhibitors compared to last year's disappointing 99 head and 35 exhibitors. However C.N.E. Director Jack Fraser, Streetsville, (also a well-known Holstein breeder) expressed optimism, stating that interest will build again in future years.

T. Robert Flett, Oshawa, enjoyed a good day as he won the Grand Champion Female banner with his first prize four-year-old, Theynor Hagen Cindy.

Close contest
A torrid race for Premier Breeder and Exhibitor honors developed during the show.

The eventual winner for both was Spring Farms, Streetsville, but Oak Ridges Farms Ltd. trailed by only one point for Premier Breeder. International Farms, Bolton, was a scant two points back in the same division. However, International was the closest competitor for Premier

Holstein winners

Exhibitor, trailing by a small margin of five points. Judge Grieve did a commendable job of judging and scattered the winnings well. Seven different exhibitors managed to win red ribbon first prizes.

M. D. Wingrove of Campbellville took the first prize in Progeny of Dam class, with hony Babe. The Wingrove herd also came third in senior yearling female, second in three-year-old, third in breeder's herd and second in get-of-sire.

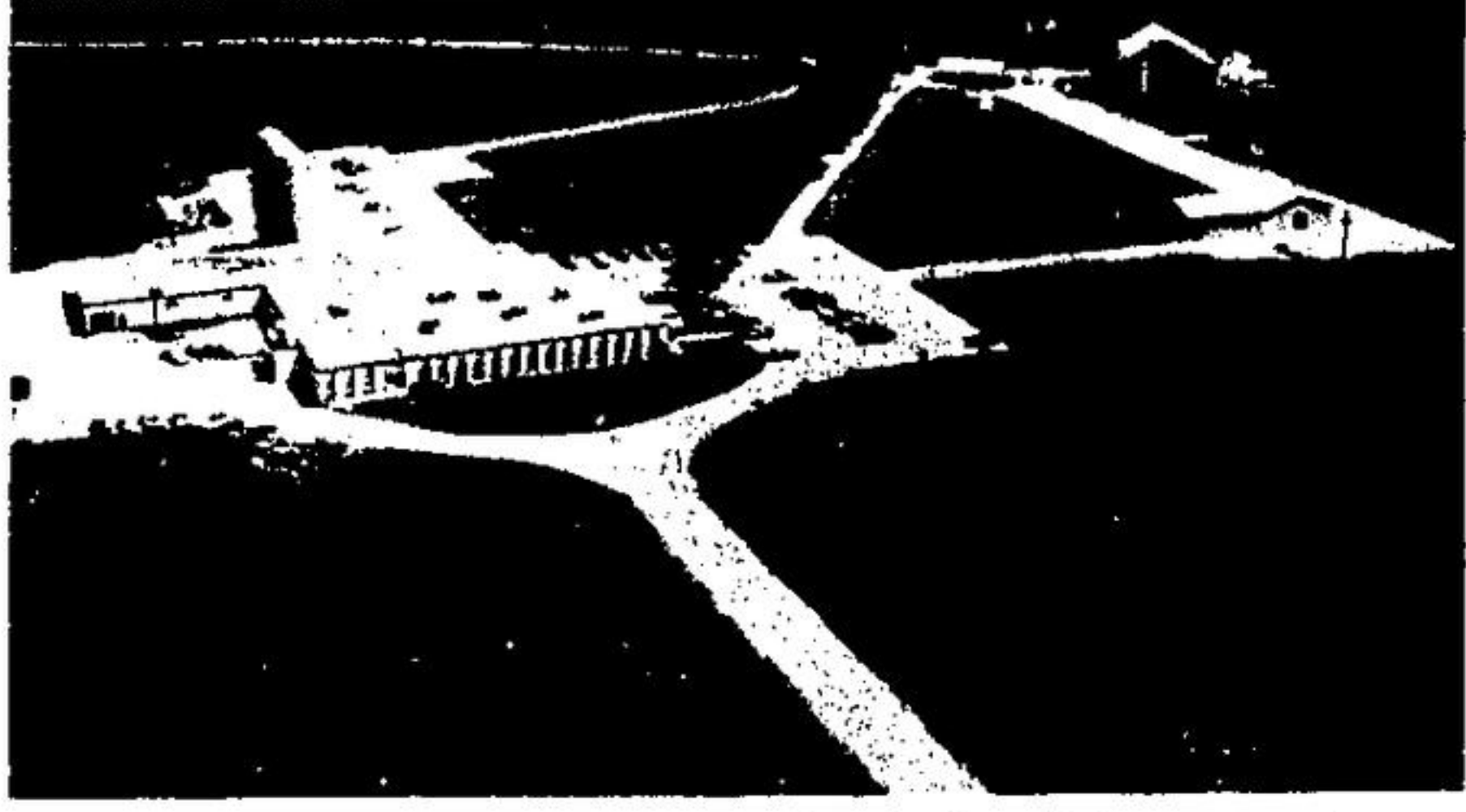
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UNITED BREEDERS KEEPS a stock of 185 bulls at their 235 acre farm at Guelph. The firm began operations at Guelph in 1968.

United Breeders at Plowing Match

United Breeders will be among the many agriculture firms exhibiting at the International Plowing Match to be held here September 24 to the 28.

United Breeders sell bull sperm all over the world and provide artificial insemination services in 15 Ontario counties and regions, including Halton and Peel. The firm's headquarters are in Guelph and their distribution

office for Halton and Peel is in Georgetown. Their display will be in the tent area of the plowing match and it will be similar to last year's display which was at the Lambton Plowing Match. "We hope to have some new features and are working on a few surprises," said Don Fortune, of United Breeders, Guelph.

As things stand now they will have a slide presentation depicting their firm's work, frozen bull sperm and artificial insemination in cattle. Highly trained personnel will be on hand to talk to the public and answer the questions.

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AMONG THE MANY exhibitors at the International Plowing Match being held here September 24 to 28 will be United Breeders. Their display this year will be similar to the one last year at Lambton.



A UNITED BREEDERS' technician loads up one of the semen tanks. Semen is frozen in these tanks to 32 degrees below zero. The firm ships semen all over the world.

Hire new chief soon

The Halton Regional bureaucracy is expected to have a new chief soon. Regional Chairman Allan Masson said the committee is expected to make a recommendation to council today (Wednesday).

Asked last week, Masson said the committee was still interviewing people and considering prospective candidates for the highest post in the regional structure.

Early in the region's life council gave a flat "no" to the chairman's request for an administrator. That decision was reconsidered and eventually reversed. Many councillors view the position as a cure to many problems that have hampered the

regional operation since its inception.

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Band did not compete

Acton Citizens' Band did not compete at the C.N.E. this year. Certain players were lacking and holidays made another problem.

ACTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY PARADE

● ENTRY FORM ●

Saturday, September 21st

★ NO ENTRY FEE REQUIRED ★

All entries for the Parade must be registered with the Secretary on or before September 19th, 1974. Entries NOT registered before September 19th, will NOT be eligible to win, and will be placed at the rear of the parade.

All entries must be at the Acton High School Grounds by 11.15 a.m. Saturday, September 21st.

NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
PHONE _____	
TYPE OF FLOAT	
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<input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS	<input type="checkbox"/> ORGANIZATIONS

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