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Barney Harris, Jr., Conference Chairman, Dairy Science
Dan W. Webb, Dairy Science
David K. Beede, Dairy Science
Jan K. Shearer, Veterinary Medicine and Dairy Science
Kermit C. Bachman, Dairy Science

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1989-90**

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Rt. 1, Box 192
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**DAIRY PRODUCTION CONFERENCE
AWARDS BANQUET
1989 AWARDEES**

1. DAIRY FAMILY AWARD - For several years, the Florida Farm Bureau Federation has enjoyed the opportunity of presenting a plaque to an outstanding Florida dairy family at the annual Dairy Production Conference. The family recognized annually is selected by a committee representing the Florida Farm Bureau Federation, Dairy Science Department of the University of Florida, Dairy Division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and with assistance from the local county Extension agent. The citation was read by Mr. Pat Cockrell.

Some of the criteria used in making the selection include:

1. Contributions made to the dairy industry
2. Longevity in the dairy business (two, three, or four generations, etc.)
3. Record of quality milk production
4. Cooperative attitudes
5. Success in milk production

The dairy family selected this year got its start in the dairy business in Florida at the height of the Depression. The patriarch moved to Miami in 1929 from DeKalb County, Alabama. Like many other young men, he was seeking work. He visited his brother at Farway Dairy near Miami. The owner had no openings but invited the young man to stay in the bunkhouse until he could find work. Truman J. Smith, a man of principles, insisted that he would help around the farm to pay for his board. At the end of the first week, the owner paid him the same as the others--showing Mr. Smith's potential. He stayed on for several years and worked for several dairies in the Miami area before getting a job as assistant plant manager for Miami Home Milk Producers Association.

Truman Smith married his wife, Janie Dean, in 1935, and the two of them worked for 10 years to save money to buy their own dairy. Their dream came true in 1946, when the couple purchased 100 head of dairy cows in partnership with Smith's brother-in-law, Hobson Rucks. They rented the building and land for the dairy, which was located in Callahan. In 1948, Mr. Smith bought out his partner. Then in 1949, he sold the cows. He turned down several job offers and spent three months looking for another dairy, before relocating in the Tampa area.

He finally bought 125 head of cows, leasing the building and lands. Two years later, he bought the land and barns in the area that is now Carol Wood Meadows in Tampa. He operated that dairy for 30 years.

In 1977, he bought a piece of property near Brooksville and began moving his dairy to its present location. The Smiths' only son, Ken, was born in 1938, and worked on the family dairy while growing up. With the move north, Ken took more responsibilities in running the family dairy.

At the present location in Brooksville, we see three generations of Smiths farming side by side in the running the family dairy. Ken's son Troy, 22, is active in all phases of the operation. Ken's daughter, Erica, is also involved as bookkeeper for T. J. Smith and Son Dairy. The Smiths milk more than 400 cows at the dairy and have a rolling herd average of more than 17,000 pounds. Mr. Smith not only provided a solid start for his family, he took a young worker, Thurman Hatten, under his wing and invited him in as partner in a second dairy--the 600-head Trinity Dairy. Thurman oversees most of the day-to-day operations at the main dairy, and Warren Lowry manages the Trinity Dairy.

Truman Smith has served in many leadership positions during his career. He was President of Tampa Independent Dairy Farmers, Inc. for five years, President of the American Dairy Association, President of Dairy Farmers, Inc., and President of the Florida Dairy Farmers Federation as well as several industry committees.

Ken is following in the father's footsteps as a member of the Florida Farm Bureau Dairy Advisory Committee. He also serves on the Board of Tampa Independent Dairy Farmers, Inc. and the Hernando County Farm Bureau. He is a former member of the Soil Conservation Board.

2. DAIRY HERD MANAGEMENT AWARDS - The awards are sponsored by Farm Credit Services in Florida and are selected from recipients nominated by the County Extension Faculty. Selections are based on changes and progress in milk production and herd management practices. Also, involvement in association, community and Extension programs are given consideration. The 1989 awards were presented by Mr. Charles Thompson, President, North Florida Farm Credit Service.

Small Herd Division - submitted by Jack Spears, County Extension Director, Holmes County. The citation was read by Dr. Barney Harris.

Estal and Wanda Mattox, and their two children, A. J. and Josh, owners of Whispering Hope Dairy near Graceville, were the recipients of the 1989 Florida Small Dairy Herd Management award at the 1989 Florida Dairy Production Conference held in Gainesville this week.

Estal and Wanda are third-generation dairy farmers. They moved from Tennessee to Florida in the mid-70's and have been on their own for the past eight years. Whispering Hope Dairy milks 56 cows on 120 acres, and has a rolling herd average of 19,339 pounds milk and 654 pounds fat. While the dairy is small, it houses a feed mill where all rations are

formulated, mixed and fed. About 30% of the Holstein herd is registered, and all animals are bred AI.

Estal presently serves as president of the Jackson DHI Association, is a member of the Holmes County Farm Bureau, and is actively involved in a local Baptist Church. He and his wife Wanda have two sons, ages seven and thirteen.

Medium Herd Division - submitted by Sharon Fox, Volusia County Extension. The citation was read by Dr. Barney Harris.

Fieser Dairy is owned and operated by the Fieser family in Volusia County. Originally from Kansas, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Fieser and their three children moved to Florida in 1960, and after serving as herdsman for two other dairies for 13 years, purchased the Blowers dairy. Since 1972, they have owned the dairy. It is a family dairy, with all three children, Gerald, Karl, and Susan, frequently involved. Karl has an interest in auto racing, Susan is involved in teaching, and Gerald represents the dairy at various meetings.

The dairy has made considerable progress in recent years. It is located on 350 acres, milks 484 cows, and has a rolling herd average of 16,192 lbs of milk.

The family is very much involved in community and state activities. Gerald is a member of the Virginia-NC Select Sires Board, Dairy Farmers Incorporated, University of Florida Advisory Committee, and Florida Feed Technical Council. Locally, Gerald serves on the Farm Bureau Board, is an Orange City Councilman, and is actively involved in the Volusia County Dairy Show. Also, the dairy serves as a host for tours and events during the year.

Large Herd Division - submitted by Mike Kelly, Multi-county Extension Agent in Duval County. The citation was read by Mr. Mike Kelly.

Perret's Dairy, Inc. of Callahan was named the recipient of the Florida Large Dairy Herd Management Award at the Florida Dairy Production Conference held in Gainesville on May 2-3, 1989.

Perret's Dairy is a third-generation operation which was started in 1917 by G. A. Perret, an immigrant from Switzerland, who began dairying with six Guernsey cows. In 1932, son Don Perret began selling milk door-to-door from the back of a station wagon. Perret's Dairy continued to bottle and distribute milk until 1979.

Today, Perret's Dairy is owned and operated by grandson, Michael Perret. The 800-acre dairy has a herd size of 1350 cows with plans to increase

to 1500 cows. The dairy enjoys a DHIA rolling herd average of 17,669 lbs milk with 3.6% BF.

The success of the dairy operation is attributed to its strong staff of employees. Perret's Dairy subscribes to a personnel management program which is based on an organizational chart for all positions and a job description for every position. Communication is the key as it flows from management to supervisors to workers and back again through close daily interaction, weekly meetings between management and supervisors and monthly meetings between supervisors and workers. Workers are evaluated monthly based on individual and team performances.

Perret's dairy is very innovative in the use of computers and other management practices. Heat stress management programs include the use of shade, sprinklers and fans. Feeding and health programs are carefully monitored.

The management of Perret's Dairy is very supportive of Extension dairy educational programs in Northeast Florida including participation on the Northeast Florida Extension Dairy Advisory Committee and the Duval DHIA Board of Directors. The management of Perret's Dairy also supports the Florida dairy industry through membership and active participation in Florida Holstein Association, Florida PDCA and Florida Dairy Farmers, Inc.

3. THE OLYMPIAN AWARD - sponsored by the Florida Bankers Association, this award recognizes a dairyman each year that has made significant progress in the dairy industry, is progressive in management concepts and facilities, involved in community and association activities and supportive of Extension programs. Such is the case Butler's Dairy where Robert K. Butler and the family have been progressive leaders in the dairy industry. The citation was read by Dr. Roger Natzke.

The dairy was founded July 1, 1940, by Bob's father, Ben W. Butler. In 1948, Robert K. became a partner in the dairy and was married to Mildred Thomas. In 1965, Bob, Mildred and the three sons purchased Ben's shares of the dairy and constructed a new dairy in Highlands County. Today, Butler's Dairy, Inc., is two dairies and still very much a family farm.

The three sons, Robert, Ron, and Roger, are now married and all three, as well as their wives, are involved in the operation. In 1973, Ron married Deborah Beasley, Robert, Jr. married Pamela Hendry in 1977, and in 1984, Roger married Zoe Trvelyn. The wives, along with Bob, Sr. and Mildred, handle all the records through their computer programs.

The Butlers have always had a keen interest in the Florida Dairy Industry as well as community activities. Bob, Sr. has served on the board of IDFA (now FDFA) since it was formed in 1957, the first year as an alternate, and thereafter as a director. He has served on the executive

board since 1959, and now serves as Secretary. He was a charter member of the board of Commercial Bank of Okeechobee, later purchased by Sun Bank. Since United Feed Co-op was formed in 1979, he has served as Secretary-Treasurer. He also serves as director and Treasurer of Producers' Meat Packing Co-op. Bob also served for eight years on the Board of Trustees of Okeechobee General Hospital, and later for three years on the board of H. H. Raulerson Hospital. Governor Graham appointed him to the Resource Management Task Force, and later to the South Florida Water Management Board.

Mildred has served on the Okeechobee County Library Board since 1983, and on the Hospice Board since 1985. She also serves on the Extension Service Advisory Board. Bob, Jr. has served on the UDIA board for ten years and is now serving as President of DFI. He also serves on the University of Florida SHARE Board, as well as the Kissimmee River Advisory Board. Pam stays busy with their three children, Ben, Katie and Will. She serves as a school volunteer and this year headed up the dairy section of the Food Fair. Ron serves on the Farm Bureau Board and the Youth Livestock Committee. He coaches the 4-H Dairy Judging Team and judges local dairy shows. Debbie stays busy with their three sons, Justin, Jarrod and Jacob. She has been going back to college to get her teaching certificate. Roger has had a busy year putting the BMP project in at Barn No. 1. Zoe stays busy with their two-year-old son, Ryan.

All of the Butlers are very much involved in the activities of their local church in Okeechobee.

4. DAIRY SCIENCE SENIOR AWARD - Florida Dairy Princess (1st runner-up) Sarita Henderson presented the Outstanding Dairy Senior Award to Ms. Meline Kulhanjian at the 26th Annual Florida Dairy Production Conference. This award is sponsored by Dairy Farmers, Inc., and recognizes the strong leadership that Meline provided during her undergraduate study in Dairy Science. Meline is completing a dual major in Dairy Science and Food/Resource Economics, and plans to work in agricultural extension. In addition to her Dairy Club activities, Meline has been active in Alpha Zeta honorary fraternity and the Little Sister program at Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity.
5. PDCA AWARDS - Mr. David Solger, County Extension Director in Washington County received the IFAS Purebred Dairy Cattle Association (PDCA) award at the 26th Annual Florida Dairy Production Conference Awards Banquet. Mr. Solger was cited for his outstanding leadership and services to the Florida dairy industry, especially in the areas of youth work and dairy cattle management, and in the promotion of healthy and quality cows.

Mr. Don Bennink, owner of North Florida Holsteins at Bell, received the industry PDCA award. He was cited for his dedication and hard work with the Florida Holstein Association, the PDCA, and support of the Florida dairy industry. Also, he was recognized for his leadership role with purebred dairy cattle shows and in the promotion of purebred dairy cattle.

Posthumous awards - Mr. Herman Boyd and Mr. Earl Van Wagner were honored by the Florida Purebred Dairy Cattle Association for their many contributions to the promotion of purebred dairy cattle and the Florida dairy industry.

6. TOP DHIA HERD RECOGNITION - 1989 DAIRY PRODUCTION CONFERENCE

Division I - Under 500 Cows

HERD	LOCATION	NO. COWS	MILK	FAT	PROTEIN
<u>Milk</u>					
*Eicher Dairy	Walnut Hill	101	20,710	707	670
*Working Cows Dairy	Grand Ridge	92	20,458	727	641
*Condale Farms	Anthony	241	20,390	658	611
*VanWagner Dairy	Citra	283	19,507	663	607
*Hidden Hammock Hols.	Summerfield	122	18,808	662	573
<u>Fat</u>					
*Working Cows Dairy	Grand Ridge	92	20,458	727	641
*Eicher Dairy	Walnut Hill	101	20,710	707	670
B. S. Carter Dairy	Callahan	317	17,841	678	575
Pine Lane Dairy	High Springs	424	16,328	671	514
Estal & Wanda Mattox	Graceville	69	17,852	670	573

Division II - Over 500 Cows

HERD	LOCATION	NO. COWS	MILK	FAT	PROTEIN
<u>Milk</u>					
*Oaklane Dairy #2	Alachua	631	20,279	740	652
*L A D Dairy Farm	Greenville	837	19,751	697	605
*Pine Valley Dairy, Inc.	Lakeland	672	18,828	623	593
*North Florida Holsteins	Bell	1,877	18,670	665	585
*Aukema Dairy Farms, Inc.	Chipley	555	18,076	564	571
<u>Fat</u>					
*Oaklane Dairy #2	Alachua	631	20,279	740	652
*L A D Dairy Farm	Greenville	837	19,751	697	605
*North Florida Holsteins	Bell	1,877	18,670	665	585
Farren Dakin Dairy	Myakka City	640	16,850	629	540
Cameron Dakin	Myakka City	760	17,281	624	549

Production data from DHI test year ending September 30, 1988.

*All or part of herd milked 3X.

7. STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
HONOR ROLL AWARDS FOR 1988

Top Four Honor Roll Awardees were:

- a. Small herd division (less than 200 cows) - Cohasset Dairy, Fillmore McMillan, Grand Ridge, Florida, 40 cows
- b. Medium herd division (200-499 cows) - Shenandoah Dairy, James E. Henderson, Live Oak, Florida, 225 cows
- c. Large herd division (greater than 500 cows) - Sloane Ray Dairy, Raymond C. Melear, Okeechobee, Florida 650 cows

Other herds receiving Honor Roll Certificates:

12 Months

Norman Nickerson
Bellview Dairy
12835 SE Highway 301
Bellview 32620

Fred Gore
Gore Dairy No. 2
P. O. Box 605
Zephyrhills 34283

Leon N. Lockhart
Lockharts Dairy
10020 SW 105th St.
Ocala 32671

Walter Wayne Jerkins
Blue Jay Farm Dairy
21328 Ayers Rd.
Brooksville 33512

John F. Carter, Jr.
Green Oak Dairy
Rt. 1, Box 352
McAlpin 32062

Mrs. Jean McArthur Davis
McArthur Farms, Inc. #4
1550 NW 208th St.
Okeechobee 34972

Mike Bond
Chrislyn Dairy
Rt. 2, Box 345
Lake City 32055

T. J. Koon
Koon Dairy
Rt. 2, Box 238
Mayo 32066

J. P. O'Connell
Orange Hill Dairy
Rt. 1, Box 287
Chipley 32428

James L. Enrico
Enrico Dairy, Inc.
6001 SE 128th Ave.
Okeechobee 33474

Wayne Lee
Lee Dairy
Rt. 1, Box 173F
Chipley 32428

Riley & Mark O'Steen
O'Steen, Whitey Dairy
Rt. 2, Box 215A
Mayo 32066

Robert Goolsby
Goolsby Dairy No. 1
Rt. 1, Box 187
McAlpin 32062

C. Lee Holcomb
Leemin Premium Dairy
603 Pawn Way
Seffner 33584

Beverly Platt
Platt Farms
P. O. Box 246
Okahumpka 32762

Robert Goolsby
Goolsby Dairy No. 2
Rt. 4, Box 453
McAlpin 32060

D. W. Lester
Lester, D.W. & Sons
200 Lester Dairy Road
Land O' Lakes 33539

Ray Melear
Ray Melear Dairy, Inc.
Rt. 5, Box 1890
Okeechobee 34974

Mike Reagan
Rolling Hills/Pasco Co.
1062 Covington Rd.
Dade City 33525

Raymond C. Melear
Sloane Ray Dairy
5200 HWY 98 North
Okeechobee 33472

Mrs. Earl Van Wagner
Van Wagner Dairy
Rt. 1, Box 2760
Citra 32627

Neil Rucks
Rucks, Neil Dairy No. 3
1717 Hwy 301 South
Zephyrhills 33599

Thomas J. Adams
Triple A Dairy, Inc.
P. O. Drawer 640
Glen St. Mary 32040

Howard Nickerson
White Owl Dairy
Rt. 5, Box 149X
Live Oak 32060

Robin/Todd/Robert Bowie
Shoe String Dairy
11855 VC Johnson Rd.
Jacksonville 32218

O. W. Goolsby
Triple G Dairy
1939 S. Lakeview Ave.
Sebring 33870

William F. Rucks
William F. Rucks Dairy
12500 NW 240th St.
Okeechobee 33472

24 Months

Bernard Arndt
Arndt Dairy
Rt. 1, Box 178
High Springs 32643

Norman Nickerson
Lemon Grove Dairy
Rt. 2, Box 267N
Wauchula 33873

Neil Rucks
Rucks, Neal Dairy
1717 HWY 301 South
Zephyrhills 33599

G. E. Toms
Graham Co. No. 3
143400 NW 60th Ave.
Moore Haven 33471

Carlton Melear & Son
Melear Dairy No. 2
P. O. Box 1647
Avon Park 33825

James E. Henderson
Shenandoah Dairy
Rt. 8, Box 153
Live Oak 32060

Donald G. Hanson
Hanson's Dairy
Rt. 2, Box 128A
Mayo 32066

R. L. Price, Jr.
Price Dairy
1107 Webb St.
Graceville 32440

Charles Williams
V & W Dairy
P. O. Box 1057
Avon Park 33825

36 Months

Frank Butterworth
Butterworth's Dairy
P. O. Box 114
Bonifay 32425

Mrs. Jean McArthur Davis
McArthur Farms No. 5
1550 NW 208th St.
Okeechobee 34972

Jay Swiers
Pine Lane Dairy
Rt. 1, Box 40
High Springs 32643

F.A. & Florida McMillan
Cohassett Dairy
Rt. 1, Box 7
Grand Ridge 32442

Wayne Oelfke
Oelfke Dairy Farm
Rt. 1, Box 88
High Springs 32643

Pride Inc. Apalachee
Correctional Inst.
P. O. Box 699
Sneads 32460

48 Months

G. E. Toms
Grahams Company
P. O. Box 41
143400 NW 60th Ave.
Moore Haven 33471

60 Months

I. O. & Everett Kerby
Kerby Dairy
Rt. 3, Box 61
Mayo 32066

84 Months

James L. Legg
Turnpike Dairy
P. O. Box 385
Palm City 34990-0385

144 Months

Wallace Eicher
Eicher's Dairy
Rt. 1, Box 175
McDavid 32568

168 Months

Mrs. Max Brantley
Brantley's Dairy
3825 Turtle Mound Rd.
Melbourne 32905

George White
River Dairy
2642 Flowing Well Rd.
DeLand 32720

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Lakeland, FL 33809

American Cyanamid Company
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Winter Haven, FL 33884

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Clinton, IA 52732

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Greensboro, NC 27420

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Brandon, FL 33511

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Calhoun, GA 30701

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P. O. Box 338
Omro, WI 54963

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Wilbur Webb
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Stuart, FL 33497

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Freeport, IL 61032

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Chappell Hill, TN 37034

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Frankfort, KY 40601

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P. O. Box 24868
Lakeland, FL 33802-4868

Landmark Genetics, Inc.
Les Anderson
2203 Woodbine Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

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Tommy Lynn
P. O. Box 5568
Ocala, FL 32678

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P. O. Box 248
Thonotosassa, FL 33592

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Zephyrhills, FL 34283

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Quincy, IL 62301

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Quitman, GA 31643

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Daryl D. Hammer
200 Caldwell
Campobello, SC 29322

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and Don Themm Enterprises
Don Themm
6121 Hwy 98 N
Lakeland, FL 33809

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P. O. Box 1356
Leesburg, FL 32749-1356

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Lakeland, FL 33803

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Mr. W. M. Gober
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Clewiston, FL 33440

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Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

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Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

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