

HARDY CROSS BETWEEN HOLSTEINS AND BRAHMANS

Texas Ranchers Breed "Brahmanstein" Cattle

"We could easily sell 10,000 head of breeding stock if we had them," says Bill Damuth, one of the founders of a hot new breed of cattle that's a 50-50 cross between Holsteins and Brahmans.

Some "Brahmansteins" look a lot like Holsteins with black and white coloring. But others are all black or even red and white. All have big Brahman ears.

"Many farmers, especially in the south, have had Brahman crosses in their cow herds for years. They usually notice that they're the best mother cows and, often, the best producers. We're the first association to actively and carefully breed the best Holsteins with the best Brahmans," says Damuth. He has a herd of 120 Brahmansteins and is president of the 50-member Brahmanstein Breeders

Association which collectively owns about 5,500 registered animals.

The association has been actively breeding Brahmansteins in Texas since 1977 and made its first sale of 600 heifers to South America in 1979. Since then, Damuth says, it's been impossible to keep up with demand.

"Brahmansteins are in high demand in third world countries where they need disease-resistant animals that'll produce both beef and milk. Many small farmers own just one or two animals," explains Damuth. Many large dairies in South America have also begun to stock Brahmansteins, however, and Brahmansteins have proven to be one of the best receptor animals for embryo transplants due to their easy calving ability and good mothering tendencies.

Brahmansteins bulls are bigger



Brahmansteins are red or black, and white, and have characteristic big Brahman ears.

than Holstein bulls but the cows are about the same size. Calves have slightly smaller birth weights but much higher weaning weights, says Damuth. He notes that even though the association makes most of its sales to foreign countries there are standing orders from U.S. beef breeders for culled animals that don't fit association standards. "They want to work them into their beef herds," he notes.

Damuth says association officers are careful in selecting new breeders and they inspect each new animal before it is registered. Officers plan to limit the foundation herd size for the breed to 10,000 animals, says Damuth.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Damuth, Brahmanstein Breeders Association, P.O. Box 798, Canton, Tex. 75103 (ph 214-479-3224).

ALSO POPULAR AS A "CINDERELLA COACH" FOR WEDDING PARTIES

Farm Family Rides To Town In Big Pumpkin

A growing family of five children forced Harold Heiman, Marshall, Wis., to replace his 2-seat surrey with something bigger. A suggestion from his daughter resulted in construction of the "Cinderella Coach", a pumpkin-shaped horse drawn carriage that comfortably seats 10.

The bright orange ball-shaped wagon with a green stem on top has already become a big attraction in local parades — pulled by Heiman's strikingly handsome Shire draft horses. Heiman also has found a market renting the carriage out to wed-

ding parties.

"My daughter showed me a picture of a pumpkin coach in her Cinderella book. I didn't take her seriously at first but after I thought about it awhile I decided to try it," says Heiman.

He first built the frame of the coach with light flat iron and then covered it with chicken wire and paper. He then had the entire thing coated with bright orange fiberglass, inside and out.

The pumpkin has a door on either side and 6 round windows. Benches along the front and back sides each



The 10 seat pumpkin coach is a big hit in local parades.

seat 5 people. The driver sits on a large front seat with plenty of room for two.

"The carriage is 8 ft. wide, 7 ft., 4 in. high, and 11 ft. long. It weighs just 700 lbs. and rides on a chassis made from two Volkswagen front ends," says Heiman, who used the VW front ends because of their torsion bar suspension.

The carriage cost \$2,000 to build but Heiman says it could have been made for less if he had done the fiberglassing himself.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harold Heiman, Rt. 1, 305 Heiman Lane, Marshall, Wis. 53559 (ph 608 764-5300).

OFFSPRING HAVE APPALOOSA MARKINGS

Rare Twin Mule Colts Born To Appaloosa Mare

"The odds of a mare giving birth to twin mule colts are 1 out of 40,000," states W.A. "Bill" Robinson, Shreveport, La., who adds that the odds are even lower for both animals to survive.

Robinson's 12-year-old Appaloosa mare recently gave birth to Tom and Jerry, two identical mule colts with Appaloosa markings. The father is a 3-year-old jack.

Neitawana had previously given birth to five registered Appaloosa

colts. Robinson mated her with the donkey jack to obtain mules with the distinctive Appaloosa markings. How clearly the colts will be marked as they mature remains to be seen.

Neitawana gave birth to the mule colts without any assistance. Tom was 36 in. at birth and Jerry 35 in. Robinson expects the twins to grow to about 1,000 lbs. or more. He plans to use them to pull wagons for parades.



Tom and Jerry, identical twin mules colts, were sired by a 3-yr.-old jack.