

# The Early Years of the Red & White Dairy Cattle Association

by Larry W. Specht

The Red and White Dairy Cattle Association (RWDCA) joined the other U. S. dairy breeds on April 17, 1964. This report covers the first 25,000 animals registered by the new breed up through 1980. John Gage, a Kansas lawyer with a herd of Milking Shorthorns, did the necessary paperwork to create the organization and served as its first Executive Secretary. At that time, Gage and other Milking Shorthorn breeders were looking for increased production from their cows and had learned of research being conducted at the University of Minnesota that involved crossing Milking Shorthorns with other breeds. It ultimately led to the formation of the RWDCA "open" herd book.

Gage organized the registry process and entered the first 18 animals in the Red and White herd book. The first four were Holstein X Milking Shorthorn crosses and were designated as H50M50 animals. The same system was followed for all interbreed crosses and in later years one could find as many as three, four, and even five "breeds" contributing to a single animal. An early example would be Pine View Rain whose bloodlines were H50A25M25. This indicated the animal was the product of a Holstein mated with a crossbred Ayrshire/Milking Shorthorn.

In 1964 another 150 animals were added to the registry. Gage's Duallyn prefix was joined by fellow Shorthorn breeders Cliff Boatwright (Bardine prefix) of Wellington, Kansas, and the Alfred Buckner (Lilydale prefix) herd of Marshfield, Missouri. They were soon followed by a substantial number of registrations from Larry Moore of Suamico, Wisconsin. Moore later convinced the U. S. Holstein Association to accept his private registry of the Red and White herd that he had started in the late 1940s. These animals are found in Volume 214 of the Holstein-Friesian Herd Book that was published in 1971. Both Moore and Norm Williams (Ridges-Wood prefix) of Odessa, Missouri, advertised regularly in the Canadian Holstein publication seeking to buy good quality Red and Whites from Canada. Williams paid \$2500 in 1966 for an outstanding Red and White heifer that at the time was not eligible for registry in the Canadian Holstein herd book.

The early years for the new organization were not without conflict and disagreement among the founders of the breed. The breed office moved from Kansas to Wisconsin to Illinois and finally to Pennsylvania in the first decade of its operation. Much early credit must be given to the Elmer Carpenter family of Crystal Springs, Pennsylvania, and subsequently to John and Joan Carpenter for getting the business office running smoothly and the breed publication printed on a regular basis.

From 1965 until 1970 the RWDCA herd book provided a place to record the occasional Red and White animal that popped up in the registered black and white population. When the U. S. Holstein Association finally accepted registry of Red and Whites in 1970, many were reregistered if they met the herd book

requirements for the breed. Canadian Red and White Holsteins had been accepted into the Canadian Holstein Association herd book a few months earlier, and many were also reregistered in the RWDCA herd book.

Of the first 100 animals registered, 46 were Holstein-to-Holstein matings, 31 were Holstein-to-Milking Shorthorn, and 12 were Ayrshire-to-Milking Shorthorn. The remainder involved other breed combinations. Changes in breed participation over time were measured by dividing the 25,000 plus registrations into blocks of 400 animals each. Examination of the first block and then the 20th, 40th and 60th blocks gave the following results for the most frequent intra- and inter breed matings. Block 1 had 60% Holstein X Holstein matings, 24% Holstein X Shorthorn, 10% Ayrshire X Shorthorn, and 6% involved other breeds. Block 20 showed 85% Holstein X Holstein and 15% for all others. Block 40 had 92% Holstein X Holstein matings and Block 60 had 96% of the matings where both parents were Holsteins. Overall, animals identified as Holsteins made up about 90 percent of the parents.

Member interest in crossbreeding in the RWDCA was greatly reduced when the Shorthorns decided to stop crossing their cattle with other breeds. While RWDCA maintained an "open" herd-book, most of the registrations involved grade or registered Holsteins. The process did not produce major results for those interested in crossbreeding, but did much to help dairymen upgrade their herd identification programs and become "breeders" rather than "cow-keepers."

Progress was evident from the beginning. The first registrations were often from herds that had no animal identification program and/or had only "eartag" numbers on one or both parents. The majority of the dams were simply listed as "grades" or "unknown." A first step was to mate such animals to known "red" or "red carrier" bulls. The initial entries from some herds often revealed that only a single, unidentified sire had been used on the entire herd. Most of the service sires were registered Holsteins and early on, Larry-Moore bulls were heavily used. All breeds contributed, and some matings involved well-known sires from the non Holstein breeds.

The second step was to breed the first generation "red carrier" offspring to another round of red sires. This provided additional red carriers but would also yield some Red and White animals. When a sufficient number of Red and Whites were available in the herd or could be purchased from fellow breeders, an owner could reach the third stage, maintaining a Red and White herd by continuing to breed to Red and White sires. Such a breeding plan resulted in many good Red and White herds developing over the first 12 to 15 years of the breed's existence.

A number of the early herds were maintained for more than a decade. Specifically, Gage's Duallyn prefix was still active in the late 1970s with animal birthdates from 1957 to 1978. The

Larry Moore herd, based on Winterthur and Canadian bloodlines, was in business from 1964 to 1984. The Illinois herd of "Doc" Ostrander (Redline) operated from 1965 to 1981. The Norm Williams herd (Ridges-Wood prefix) and the Simon Tice herd of Grantsville, Maryland (Maple C and Maple G prefixes) made interesting history from 1965 until the mid 1980s.

Well-known U.S. Holstein herds such as Carnation, Winterthur, Maytag, and Chambric added to the genetics of the new breed. The first known Carnation bull to sire an RWDCA animal was Carnation Revealer, born in 1959 and bred to unidentified grades with the calves having birthdates from 1962 to 1965. Several Winterthur bulls sired red calves during the same time period. Posch Ormsby Fobes 14th, bred by Maytag, was the primary sire of the Winterthur males. The Chambric Farms contribution was mainly from Chambric Farms A B C and his son Duallyn Ivanhoe Champion Red. Both were used during the earliest years of the breed.

Sires from many of Canada's best-known herds made a major contribution to early RWDCA pedigrees. They were mostly sons and grandsons of A B C Reflection Sovereign. Canadian sires, Romandale Jasper-Red, his sire Romandale Shalimar Magnet \*RC, and Romandale Royal-Red were popular. Jasper-Red, born in 1969 and imported as a young sire, had over 700 progeny registered by the RWDCA during his lengthy career that spanned the 1970s.

The organization and growth of the Red & White Breed Association over the first two decades allowed many dairymen who were milking grade cows to work towards a registered herd without buying high priced foundation cattle. For anyone selling breeding stock, accuracy of animal identification is a must. Certainly, RWDCA made an important contribution to herds that became a part of the breed program.

The RWDCA has registered over 150,000 animals to date, but this study documents only one-sixth of the history of the breed. However, it is the early (and most difficult) portion to retell. Most of the people mentioned in this review are no longer with us. Their herds have been dispersed or moved to the next generation. Their contributions were many in terms of time and money and dedication to a new breed. The present generation of Red and White breeders has the challenge of moving the breed forward in difficult economic times and the uncertain future faced by all livestock producers.

*Information was provided by the following individuals and organizations:*

*Red and White Dairy Cattle Association  
Tim Baumgartner, President, RWDCA  
Stephanie and Nicole Stout, RWDCA  
John and Joan Carpenter, RWDCA (retired)  
Holstein USA registration file  
Holstein Canada registration file*

*Larry W Specht (11/26/2010)*