

ONE'S BLACK AND WHITE, THE OTHER RED AND WHITE

Twin Holstein Calves Came In Two Colors

By Cookson Beecher

The birth of twin Holsteins at the Dan Miller dairy farm near Burlington, Wash., last May was doubly unusual. One of the calves was born with the standard black and white colors, but the other was born red and white.

Both calves are female, and they were born to a black-and-white Holstein cow bred to a black-and-white Holstein bull. Both calves are in perfect health.

"The chances that twins would be born like this are one in a million," says Miller. "I've talked with about 20 area dairy farmers, and none of them has ever heard of anything like this. When the mother gave birth no one knew she was pregnant with twins."

The birth itself started out so normal that Miller left the barn and went home, telling 20-year-old employee Sam Pilon to keep an eye on mom. Before long, a healthy black-and-white calf emerged. But soon after that, events started taking a different tack. "Hey, wait a minute, these feet are red and white," Pilon recalls saying to himself as the second calf emerged. As soon as the calf was safely delivered, Pilon called Miller. That was early Sunday morning, May 26. Three days later, a photograph of Miller holding the red-and-white calf in his arms appeared on the front page of the county's daily newspaper.

A week later, both twins posed for a group shot - although they were more interested in exploring the world than standing still for the photographer.

A red-and-white Holstein calf is unusual in its own right - twin or no twin. Miller says he's never had a red-and-white calf



Photo Courtesy The Capital Press

The Millers and their herdsman Jim Griepsma show off their twin calves, which are both female.

born on his farm in 36 years in the business, a period during which he has welcomed thousands of calves into the world.

Rare, yes, but certainly not unheard of. "Red" genes are recessive in Holsteins.

Future plans for the calves will include guest appearances at county fairs and parades. But they won't just be "movie stars", says Miller. Both will be bred and developed as milkers.

Nevertheless, the Millers and their herdsman Jim Griepsma are so impressed with their new calves that they've decided they won't be "just another number". The red-and-white calf has been named Carol and the black-and-white one, Christy, after the Millers' granddaughter.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan Miller, Burlington, Wash. 98233 (ph 360 757-4289). *Capital Press*



Horseshoe-shaped clamp is made from 3/8-in. sq. steel bar and allows steel rods to be secured to fence posts made from common 2 7/8-in. dia. round tubing.

NO WELDING NEEDED TO ERECT THIS STEEL FENCE

Metal Clamps Make Fence Building Easy

By Georgina Campbell

Ron Shamansky's customers at his welding shop in Star, Alberta, prefer steel corrals to wood but they find repair costs too high.

"Steel corrals definitely last longer than wood ones," says Ron, "but welds crack and break due to the shrinking and expanding caused by weather and abuse by animals."

After three months of trial and error, Ron came up with an economical answer to the problem. He designed a metal clamp that's made from 3/8-in. sq. steel bar. The clamp allows steel rods to be secured to fence posts made from common 2 7/8-in. dia. round tubing.

"The toughest part was building the jigs to put the right bend on the square bar," he says. "The clamps are bent in the shape of a horseshoe and no tolerance is allowed in their construction. It's important that each clamp exactly fit the tubing."

A U-bolt fastens to each side of the post clamp.

"These clamps let you build an all-steel fence without welding," adds Ron. "If a



Shamansky shows a steel fence that he built as a sample for customers. He sells a complete package including tubing, sucker rod, and clamps.



"Roll-Top" Hopper Cover For Combines

By Gloria Vogel

A Weyburn, Sask., business woman has designed a "roll-top" hopper cover for combine grain tanks that works like a roll-top cover on a grain truck.

Linda Dzen, a mechanical engineer, designed the water-tight covers and she makes each one herself. They're made from 18-oz. weather and UV-resistant vinyl and mount on a steel frame that bolts onto the combine grain tank. A 1-in. dia.

steel rod slips through one side and is connected to a pair of cables that are rolled up by a hand crank. When the top is closed, the steel rod is held tightly in place by clips that keep the cover "tight as a drum".

Dzen also makes portable grain storage bags and vinyl covers for auger motors, aeration fans, seeders and chemical applicators, etc. (Vol. 19, No. 4). "One of my customers asked me if I could sew a vinyl

cover for his combine hopper and I said that I could. Then he said that it sure would be nice if it would roll up. That's when I started thinking, 'Why not?'" says Dzen.

"It eliminates the need to crawl up onto the combine to put a tarp on or to shovel out wet grain. The cover rides up over a peak so it easily sheds rain. It works much better than using plastic tarps which can easily get blown off or torn because they don't fit tight."

Designing the hardware to fit each combine model is the hardest part, she says. "So far I've designed the hardware and made tarps for all Deere and New Holland combines. I'm working on the hardware for Case-IH, Gleaner, and Massey Ferguson models."

Available in white, yellow, red, or black



colors. Covers for New Holland models sell for about \$750 (Canadian); for Deere models, \$800.

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