

News Items For A.B. Users

A.B. NOTES

This column, a regular feature, deals with A.B. production. Readers are reminded that the Dairy Board, which prepares the notes, will be happy to answer questions received through the "Exporter".

Bull Buying

AT the time of writing, bull buying is well under way and the majority of the bulls in the Auckland and Bay of Plenty Association areas have been inspected and the first of them have been brought to the Newstead Centre for disease testing. The isolation area at the Awahuri Centre is fenced ready for new bulls, but the disease testing block is still under construction and it will probably be some time before disease testing can commence at this Centre.

Proven Bulls

THE number of proven bulls offered this year is particularly good and is considerably above expectations. This is probably a reflection of the increased number of herds under test and greater willingness on the part of the owners to make their bulls available to the Board. With the rapid increase in the demand for artificial breeding, the number of proven bulls required is steadily increasing each year. This could have meant difficulty in supplying a full proven bull service and it is, therefore, very pleasing to have a large number of naturally proven bulls available.

Bull Proving Herds

AS reported on page 39 of this issue the Herd Improvement Council at its meeting in March decided to implement the Bull Proving Herd Scheme. A circular was sent out earlier this year setting out the main points of the scheme and members who were interested in joining the scheme were asked to inform their Herd Improve-

ment Association. The number of members who replied was more than twice the number required for the scheme and although many of these may not reapply when final applications are called for, it appears that there will be ample support for the scheme.

The £5 Rebate

THE first calves born as the result of the bull proving scheme will not, of course, come into milk until the 1964-65 season and until then the daughters required to prove the young bulls used over the past three years will be coming into milk in the herds of general A.B. users. It will continue to be essential for as many of these daughters as possible to be tested, and the rebate payment will continue to apply to these daughters.

From comments we have heard it appears that some A.B. users are still not completely clear as to the requirements for payment of this rebate.

The rebate is paid on all tested daughters resulting from the "proving" inseminations of young bulls, provided these daughters are identified by the local Herd Improvement Association and calve before two years nine months of age. Each daughter qualifies for the rebate once only, i.e., on her first lactation, and thus it is possible for some daughters to be ineligible for the rebate when the two-year-old daughters of a bull are eligible in successive years. This occurs when a bull does not obtain all his "proving" inseminations in his first year of use.

Cross-bred Beef

THE Herd Improvement Department is at present obtaining further information from those farmers who used Polled Hereford semen in 1958 and reared the resulting calves to the yearling stage or older. This survey is showing that, similar to the earlier survey, prices obtained vary considerably according to locality. Unfortunately, it is not possible to obtain much information on killing weights, as most of the sales have been in ones and twos through the saleyards.

Beef From The Dairy Herd

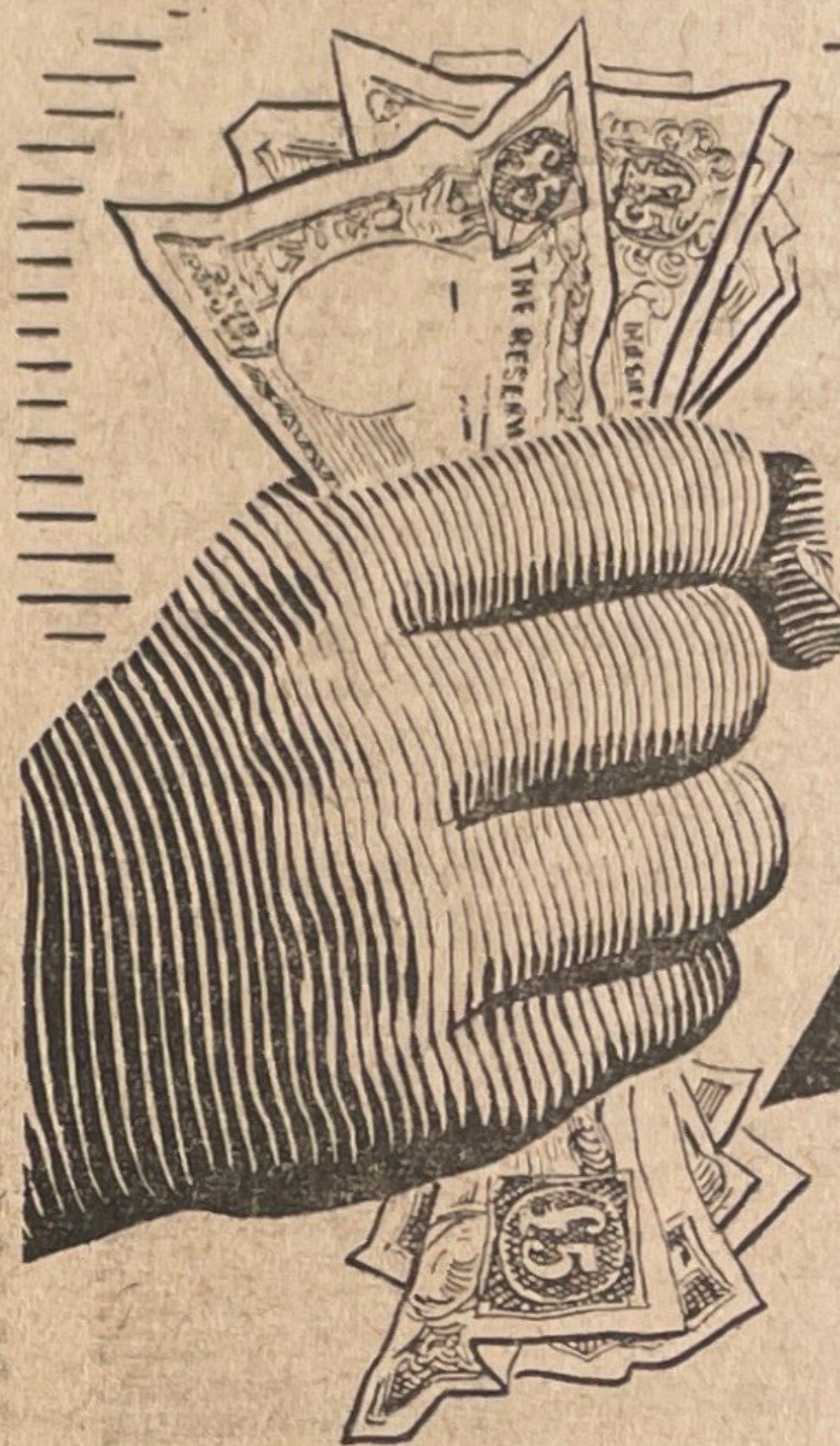
AN interesting sideline revealed by the survey is the intention of several owners to retain the heifers sired by the Hereford bulls and to mate them to beef bulls and so

commence a small beef breeding herd. Where these animals compete with the dairy herd, the proposition is hardly likely to pay, but there are many farms where beef can find a place without reducing the profits from the dairy herd.

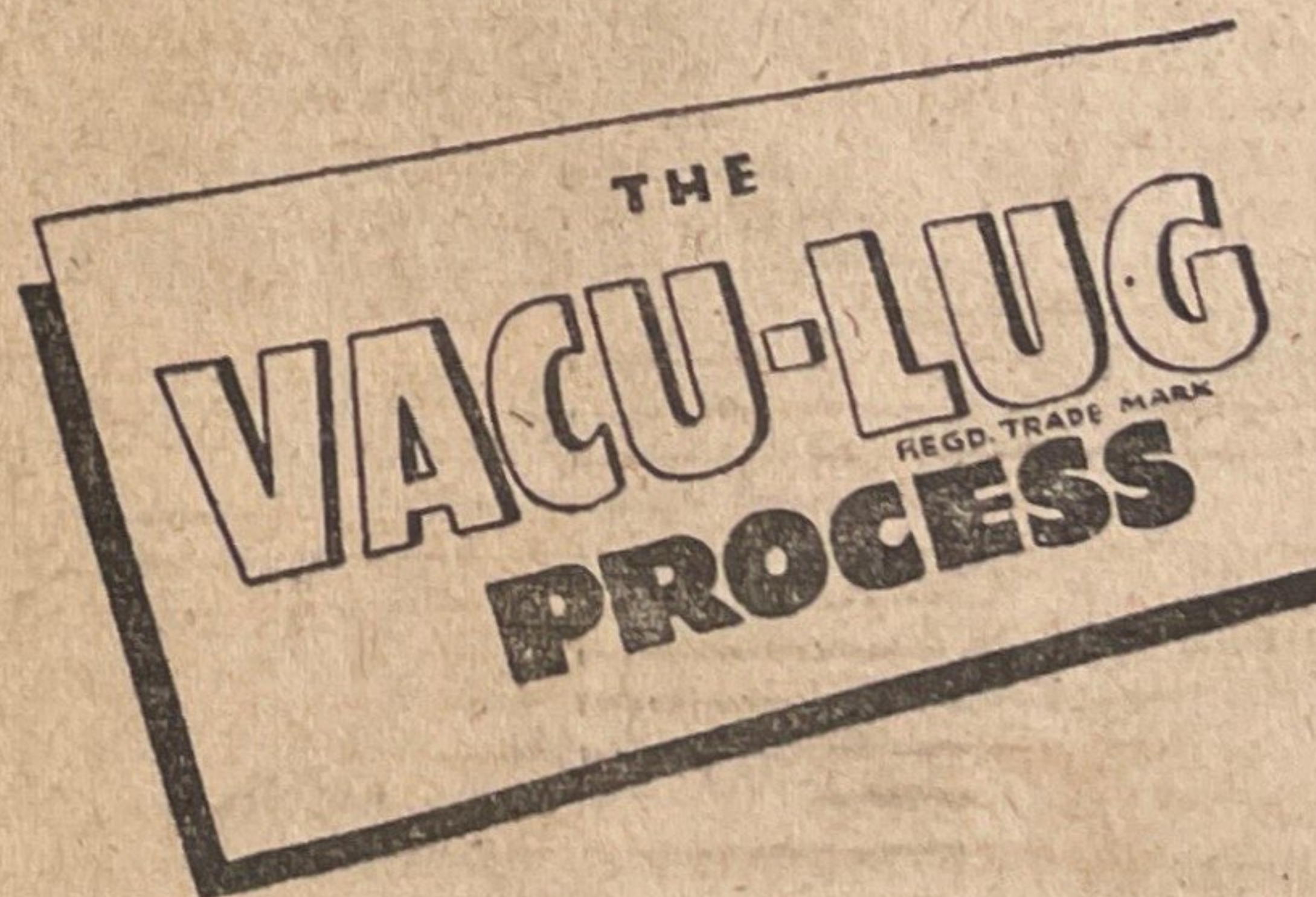
Demand For Friesians

ONE aspect of the artificial breeding service that we hope to obtain some information about in the coming season is the reason for the steadily increasing demand for Friesian semen during the spring mating season. Undoubtedly, interest in cross breeding is part of

the explanation, but we are interested to find out to what extent the demand is due to a swing to the Friesian breed. The Friesian breed has undoubtedly increased in popularity, not only from a dairying point of view but possibly from a beef-raising point of view as well. It is becoming more and more common to see Friesian steers on beef fattening properties, and some A.B. users may have this in mind when requesting Friesian semen. Although the demand for Hereford semen is slackening, beef from the dairy herd is still a live topic and one in which further developments can be expected.



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