

Fantasy Gets Her Fifth E

By Glenn Littledale '76

Farm Page



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No, she's not about to flunk out. On the morning of March second, at the age of 15, Fantasy was classified "excellent" and received her fifth E, awarded by Lynn Katter of the Holstein Association. As Katter explained to Putney's agroecology class, Fantasy has all the right traits: body capacity, dairy character, strength, and mammary system, but it's her superior feet and legs that have allowed her to move between barn and pasture for so many years.

Katter has been classifying cows for over 20 years, and typically evaluates 15,000 cows each year. The information he collects is used primarily for

sire evaluation and cattle merchandising. In his career, he estimates that he has given six or possibly seven fifth E's. Most dairy cows leave commercial barns at the age of four years, making Fantasy's longevity all the more remarkable.

Excellent care provided by students, farm staff and Pete Stickney (who purchased Fantasy as a calf) is only part of the story. Fantasy pays her way and then some, recently exceeding 220,000 pounds of milk in her life time, but she is far from finished. Well into her 11th lactation, Fantasy is showing no signs of letting up.

