

# MONTANA Farmer-Stockman

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Ray Greenhalgh, manager of Western Montana Dairy Breeders Assn., prepares semen for shipment to field units around the state. Last year, 9,586 state dairy cows were artificially bred by this association's bulls.

Insemination in field is done by technicians like Dee Lawson of Missoula unit, shown here filling plastic, disposable pipette with semen. Kit contains complete equipment for insemination. Technicians are trained, licensed. Old hands say, "It's easy to learn how to breed a cow, but you have to breed a thousand before you know how." (M F-S photos)



## ARTIFICIAL Breeding

Montana's Dairyman-Owned Program  
Now Serves 2,300 State Herds

By BILL STELLMON, Roving Reporter

A HALF CENTURY of natural breeding could not have done so much for American dairy herds as artificial breeding has done in just 15 years.

That's the opinion of J. F. Kendrick, chief of USDA dairy herd improvement work. And thousands of dairymen the country over will back him up.

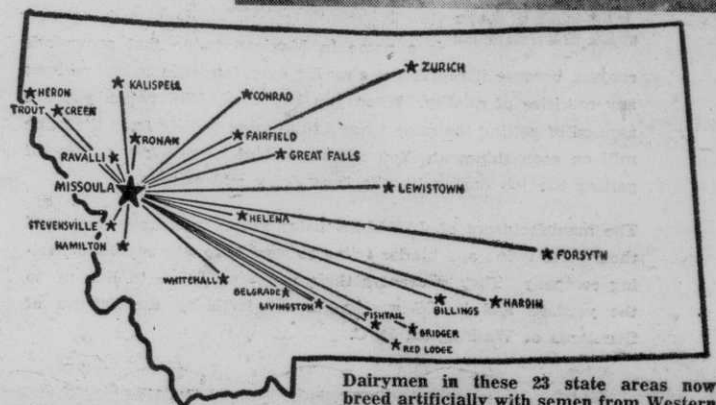
Last year, about 5 million cows in more than 600,000 herds were bred artificially by breeding associations operating in every state, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

Nearly 10,000 of those cows were in Montana herds—artificially bred by the Western Montana Dairy Breeders Assn., an organization which, regardless of name, is distributing state-wide the producing power of its good bulls.

This dairyman-owned association, just approaching its seventh birthday, now serves members in 23 areas of the state. Last year, 9,586 dairy cows in those areas were bred by association bulls. And this year, if figures for the first three months are true indication, the total may top 11,000.

That's a far cry from early years of the association when, to keep the program rolling, members sometimes would get together and buy a bull of their breed, then take his cost out in breeding fees. Funds were that short.

Now, with some 2,300 stockholder-dairymen supporting it,



Dairymen in these 23 state areas now breed artificially with semen from Western Montana association. About 2,300 herds are served.

the association is a solvent, still-growing business that counts among its assets 10 bulls of five different breeds.

Headquarters of the association is a 40-acre leased farm just northeast of Missoula. The farm, so far, is farm in name only; bull pens, a combination office-collection laboratory-barn and a couple of houses are principal facilities. But it's here that primary work of the group is done, directed by Ray Greenhalgh, manager since March, 1953, and a man experienced in the artificial breeding field.

Three times a week, Greenhalgh and his staff collect and ship semen from half a dozen bulls at the farm. Most collecting is done by Al R. Miller, (Please turn to page 12)

COVERS MONTANA AND NORTHERN WYOMING