

around the country. The Fitzgeralds send their young stock west at five months of age and the animals are returned back to Newton, Wisconsin two months prior to calving.

“We definitely have better animals by raising them out west,” noted Julie. “We’re getting healthier, better condi-

make it to our herds person in Colorado,” noted Julie.

With over a 1,000 cows, 1,500 acres and a custom heifer raising facility the Fitzgeralds have a lot to do and count on outside people to help. Regularly the Fitzgeralds conduct a team meeting with their outside consultants. “Everybody brings something to the table at those meetings,” agreed Kelly, Julie and Stacy. “It’s amazing how everyone works together to make our

dairy run better. These team meetings are very valuable.”

“As owners we’re treating cows and we don’t have the time to do everything and that’s one of the reasons we work with outside people,” stated Julie. “It’s nice to have Scott do the breeding on the farm. We know he’ll get it done and done well and we’re not sure we could do as good of a job as he does. He also does a lot of extra things around here. We don’t expect any of it, but we know he cares about our success when he does.”

For more information on Soaring Eagle Dairy visit soaringeagle.com. For information on NorthStar’s reproduction services in your area call 1.800.631.3510. ★

“Scott and Dale take their responsibility here for reproduction and matings very seriously and as a result, treat our farm like it’s their own herd.”

tioned animals. We have fewer calving problems and we are able to calve them at 21 – 22 months of age. We never used to think about calving heifers out before 24 – 26 months of age and now we are able to do it sooner and financially that’s huge. Now we get a half year of milk sooner.”

Mating recommendations for heifers are also provided through SMS and gender SELECTed™ semen is included in the program. “Dale was instrumental in helping us set-up our mating program in Colorado. He took the lead on making sure all the mating recommendations

Soaring Eagle Dairy

- Newton, Wisconsin
- 1,030 Cows
- 28,334M 1,061F 877P
- Double 16 parallel parlor
- 24% pregnancy rate
 - Visual heat detection and Ovsynch/Presynch
- 1,500 acres
- 21-full time family members and associates
- NorthStar Consultants:
 - Scott Woepse, reproductive specialist
 - Dale Sabo, SMS evaluator

Dale Sabo named Select Sires Evaluator of the Year

Dale Sabo, of DePere, Wisconsin, is Select Sires’ 2008 Select Mating Service™ (SMS™) Evaluator of the Year. This national award is presented to an evaluator that exemplifies the qualities that make SMS known world-wide as the premier mating program in the industry. The recipient must have years of superior service, a history of high-quality evaluations and the ability to build and maintain successful relationships with dairy producers.

The key to designing genetic business plans on today’s dairy operations starts with skilled, experienced evaluators. “Dale’s influence, integrity and cow knowledge have been key to the success that NorthStar and Select Sires have enjoyed in Wisconsin,” commented Gary Smith, general manager for NorthStar Cooperative.

Sabo was born and raised on a family dairy near Green Bay, Wisconsin, and earned a bachelor’s degree in dairy science from the University of Wisconsin in 1968. While in college, Dale was a member of the University of Wisconsin dairy judging team. He began working in the industry as a youth extension agent and coached very successful 4-H dairy judging teams and dairy quiz bowl teams. Sabo began Sunrise-Sunset Holsteins, and from 1974 through 1986, developed numerous

Excellent cows and district show champions, ultimately earning many premier breeder and premier exhibitor awards. Additionally, Sabo is an accredited dairy judge and has judged numerous county fairs and district Holstein shows and served as the associate judge of the Wisconsin State Junior Fair Holstein Show. Sabo began his career in A.I. at Genex Cooperative, working with the mating program. He then joined Alta Genetics as a sire analyst, where he was responsible for the acquisition of Norriellake Cleitus Luke. In 1993, Sabo joined the Select Sires family at NorthStar Cooperative as an SMS evaluator. ★



Lon Peters (right), vice president dairy sire product services manager for Select Sires, awarded Dale Sabo (left) with the 2008 Select Sires Evaluator of the Year award.