▨ Line

A Line graph is a very basic "connect the dots" type of graph in which each Legend entry is plotted separately and connected between Categories by a solid line. Line graphs are excellent for trend analysis.

If you are plotting a small amount of data that varies over a wide range, the Line graph will have a jagged zig-zag appearance. Very large amounts of data that changes cyclically (varies in a regular fashion) will appear smoother.
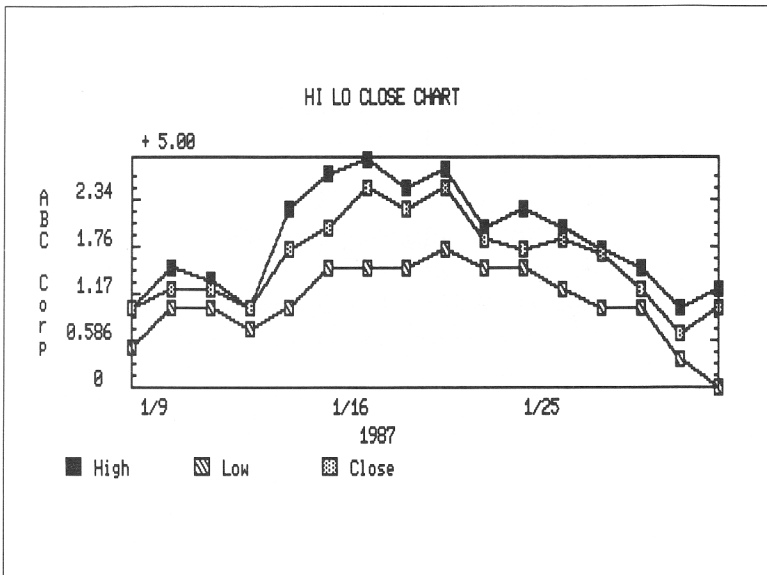

Figure 27

▩ Line and Column

The Line and Column graph is a combination of the column and line graph overlayed on top of each other. The line connects the mid-points of the tops of each column.

When the data is appropriate, the Line and Column graph combines the column graph's relative size between columns ability with the line graph's trend-revealing talent. The lines can help you follow the trends of multiple Legend entries over time.
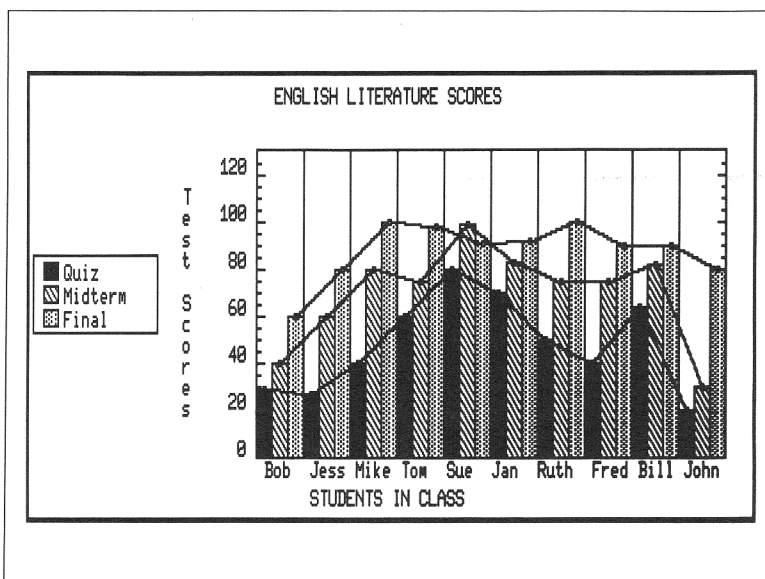

Figure 28

▇ Scatter

A Scatter graph is a line graph with the connecting lines removed. It is best suited for large amounts of data where you are looking for the "clustering" of data points. This graph is primarily used for statistical types of analyses.
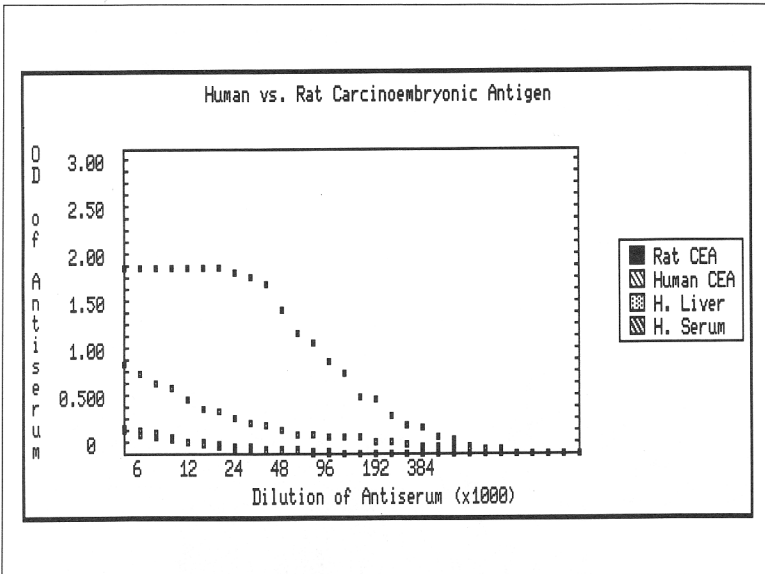

Figure 29

▓ Area

An Area graph is like a line graph with the space between
the lines filled in with the legend pattern. As in a stacked
column graph, multiple ranges of data will add up on top
of each other to show how each item contributes to the
total. The Area graph dramatically shows the contours of
the data. Negative numbers are treated as zeros as they are
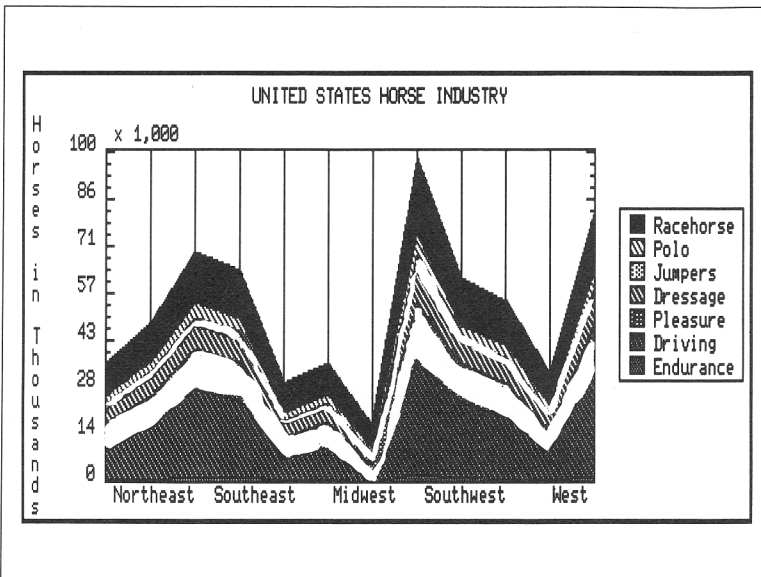in stacked column graphs and pie charts.

Figure 30

▓ Pie

The Pie chart shows the relative share of the parts (the slices) that make up a whole (the pie). The slices represent the relative share of each item in a Category group keyed to the Legend.

The Pie chart's disadvantage is that it can show only one Category group at a time (contrast this to the stacked column chart which can show multiple Categories). It is also limited as to the number and spread of values it can handle in order to avoid having the individual slices becoming too small to be visible.

Negative numbers will be treated as zeros. Note that the Pie graph appears to be oval. The program does this intentionally so that a correct circle will be created when printed.
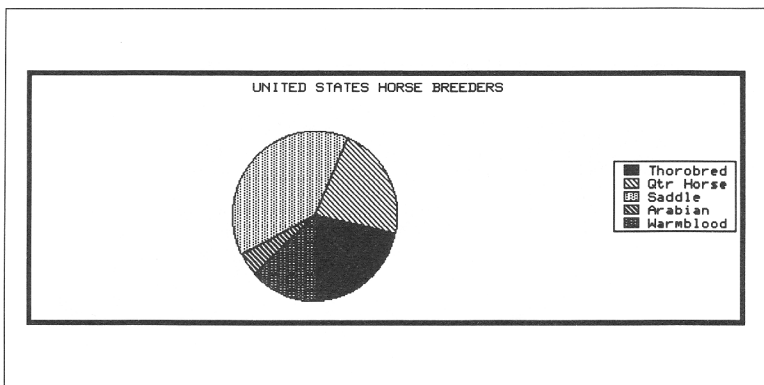
UNITED STATES HORSE BREEDERS

■ Thorobred
▨ Qtr Horse
▦ Saddle
▨ Arabian
▦ Warmblood

Figure 31

▓ 3-D

A "3-D" (for three-dimensional) graph has a third
dimension, depth, added to it. This third axis (typically
referred to as the Z-Axis) appears to come out of the
screen in perspective, giving the appearance of a solid
object. 3-D graphs can be quite dramatic in their
presentation of your data.

The 3-D graph and the column graph have similar abilities
with the exception that values can get "lost" in a 3-D graph
when smaller values are plotted behind larger ones. The 3-
D Rotate Axes option (as explained in Chapter 4) helps to
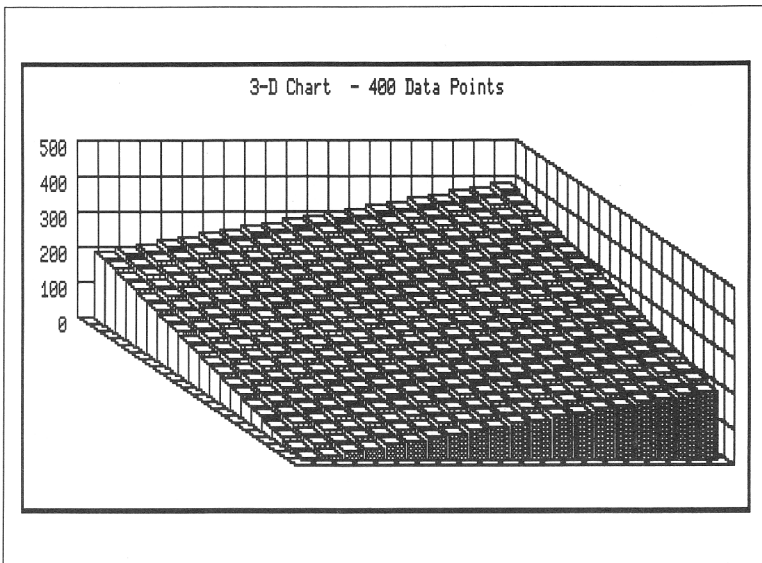minimize this. The 3-D graph treats negative numbers as
zero.

Figure 32

The 3-D Graph has several options available to help
enhance its appearance and readability. Refer to Chapter 4
for compete information on these options.

- Line Spacing. . . — Specifies the number of scale lines
  which will be drawn along the Y-axis.

- Rotate Axes — This option rotates the 3-D graph 90
  degrees so that it can viewed from a different angle.

- Width Spacing. . . — Specifies the space or "room"
  between 3-D columns side-to-side.

- Depth Spacing. . . — Specifies the space between 3-D
  columns front-to-back.

- Show Grid — Enables the drawing of the grid
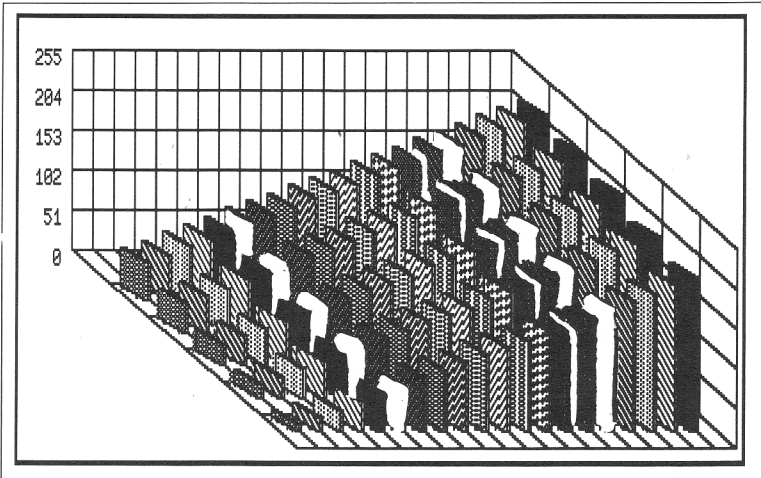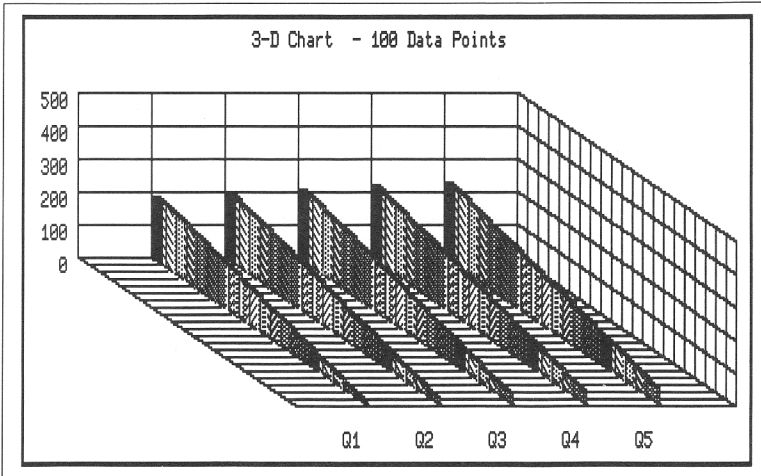 background of the 3-D chart. This is separate from
  the Axis options.

Figure 33

Figure 34

Glossary of Terms

Back up—Making a copy of a program or data in case of malfunction or loss of data.

Button—A small enclosed area within a Dialog Box that may be pointed to and clicked on to perform the indicated action.

Catalog—The area of a diskette containing the names of all other files on the diskette.

Categories—The point or points at which a Legend item is measured (e.g. months or regions).

Cell—A space in the Data Display Window for entering one data point where a Legend item intersects with one Category.

Check Mark—The indicator that a menu option is currently active.

Click—A press and release of the mouse button which executes a function.

Data—The numerical information to be graphed.

Data Point—A single piece of data; one number.

Default Setting—A pre-programmed value or setting that is assumed when no other value or setting is given by the user.

Dialog Box—An on-screen framed area in which the program asks you either for information or to make a decision.

Double Click—To click twice in rapid succession on the mouse button. This action usually is a short-cut method of making a selection and invoking a function, such as opening a file.

Drag—To highlight portions of the screen. To drag: position the pointer on the object or menu heading you wish to access or at the beginning of the cells you wish to highlight. Press and hold the mouse button while you move the mouse. When you are ready to make your selection or the desired area of the screen is highlighted, release the mouse button.

Edit—To enter, modify or delete information.

Exponential Notation—An arithmetic shorthand used for representing very large or very small numbers with as few digits as possible. For example, 1,234,567 in exponential notation is 1.235e6. The exponent (the number after the "e") is the number of places to shift the decimal point right or left.