

Stock Yards Will Add Monday Slaughter Cattle Auction

The Lancaster Livestock Exchange has decided to add a Monday auction for slaughter cattle.

Most other features of the Lancaster Stock Yards operation will remain unchanged. Private treaty selling will continue Monday and the Wednesday auction will continue for cattle, hogs, sheep and lambs.

The new Monday auction will be effective February 22.

The new Monday auction also includes a change in the order of sales. The new order will be bulls followed by heifers, steers and cows. The order previously was cows, heifers, bulls and steers.

William McCoy, who was re-elected president of the Stock Exchange at Monday's meeting, indicated there are several reasons for opening the new Monday auction.

Past experience with the Wednesday auction showed that Wednesday was too late in the week for some buyers and shippers to get their steers.

Some farmers also have indicated a preference for a Monday auction, he said.

McCoy also feels that Monday is one of the better marketing days of the week.

McCoy views the move toward the Monday auction as part of an effort to make Lancaster "the price setting center of the east" for slaughter cattle.

McCoy indicated he feels Lancaster can become the Eastern price center if large enough volume of cattle can be received and sold at the market.

Farmers in the past have been looking heavily to Lancaster and Chicago, but primarily Chicago as the price pace setters, he said.

But the large and dominant Chicago market is in the process of being phased out and this makes a whole new ball game so far as cattle marketing is concerned, according to McCoy. He noted that other markets including Omaha, St. Paul, St. Joseph, Joliet, Peoria, Milwaukee and Sioux City are among markets in the river markets group and the Chicago area which will be called on to take up the slack from the Chicago market and to determine the cattle price trends.

But all of these markets are "off the beaten path and too far west" to really take the place of Chicago, McCoy said.

He also said that Chicago is the "last Western outlet at which packers can get animals and still meet their kill deadlines in the East."

With Chicago closed, packers will either have to go farther to pick up animals from a larger

area or else ship in carcasses. There are drawbacks to both alternatives, he indicated, and he suspects that there will be a more aggressive buying at markets such as Lancaster to help make up for the problems caused by the closing of the Chicago market.

McCoy said the Stock Yards has contacted buyers which might have relied on Chicago and "we have had a lot of good replies." He stated, "Everything looks good if we can build up

receipts. We have to have cattle to keep buyers interested."

McCoy described the Stock Yards as one of the few markets in the county offering both auction and private treaty selling. Sales at the Stock Yards are fairly evenly divided between the two types, with some farmers preferring one and some the other, he stated.

However, recent trends have been toward increased auction sales. In 1970, for instance, the Livestock Exchange reported

receipts of 138,836 head of livestock, with auction sales showing a major increase of 5,292 head to a total of 58,113 head, while total receipts were down 12,819 head from the previous year to a total of 138,836 head.

The overall drop was attributed by one source to direct sales of county stock to packers.

Breakdown of sales for 1970 by category shows that 23,032 calves were sold, 83,458 head of hogs, 15,110 of sheep.

In other action at the Exchange meeting four dates for spring feeder sales were announced April 16, April 30, May 14 and May 28.

Testimonial was given to William S. Bixler, an incorporator and stockholder of J. M. Hooper Inc. and past secretary and treasurer of the Livestock Exchange.

Re-elected to office with McCoy was Donald Ober, secretary-treasurer. Richard Hooper was named vice president to succeed Horace Plank.

Hereford Registrations Up

A hefty increase in registrations has marked the first four months of the American Hereford Association's 1970-71 fiscal year.

AHA announced that a 20.9 per cent increase in registrations has been chalked up for September through December of 1970 when compared to the same period a year ago.

The Association's computers added 102,571 calves for the four months, as AHA's total registrations since 1881 are nearing the 16 million mark.

AHA Executive Secretary, W. T. Berry, Jr., in commenting on the big increase, said "there are a number of factors influencing the increased registrations. First, Hereford breeders have been reducing numbers during a severe culling program over the past few years and we are now seeing a new kind of

expansion based on better quality animals and rapidly increasing reliance on performance records. Our breeders are producing more of these top-quality animals to meet the demands of a growing market reflected by the best prices for Herefords in 18 years."

Berry also cited the continuing dominance of white-faced cattle in feedlots and the success of crossbreeding programs based on Hereford blood as factors creating additional demand for top-quality Hereford bulls and commercial straight-bred females.

"Also, commercial producers are realizing that the ideal size and skeletal structure of beef cattle as described in two recent conferences at the University of Wisconsin, are produced consistently within the Hereford breed," he added.

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6th ANNUAL SOUTHEASTERN DAIRY CONFERENCE

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Guernsey Barn,
Route 30, East, Lancaster, Pa.
Rain date is February 10

Theme of this year's Conference is "The Challenge of Progress"

SPEAKER: MR. WALLY LINDSKOOG, Arlinda Farm, Turlock, California

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