

Pa. Angus Assn. Reports Successful Field Day at Twin Oaks

Top cattle breeders from all over Pennsylvania and several other states attended the Pennsylvania Angus Association field day last Saturday at Twin Oaks Farm south of Quarryville.

The day included cattle judging, plenty of food and talks on various aspects of beef herd improvement by well known speakers.

Angus Association officials said it was one of their best attended events in years. Frey said about 450 persons from nine states attended.

In the judging competition, a Berks County family took most of the top honors, including an Angus heifer born in Mav. Fred Frey, Twin Oaks, said the animal will be fed out at the farm.

Winner of the animal is Jim Holcombe, Mohrsville RD1. He was top individual in the junior category.

His sister Cathy was second high individual and Scott Zeigler was third.

Jim and Cathy teamed up with father Paul and Kathleen Muth, Alburts, to give their Berks County team first place in the team competition. They beat a Lancaster County team to place second by 423 points to 396. Separate York County teams placed third and fourth, followed by a Lancaster County team in fifth.

Winner of the \$50 cash award for top adult individual judge was W. M. Camby. He was followed by Quay Brown, \$25, second, and Syd Stoner, \$15, third. Stoner, who operates a well known York County breeding farm and is state association president, announced he will give his prize to junior Angus associations in the state.

In the afternoon program directed by Herman Purdy, well



The chow line at the Angus Field Day was long for most of the noon lunch period. Here, things have quieted down a bit as the

crowd begins to gather inside for the afternoon speakers.

known Penn State cattle judge, Dr. Robert Long emphasized

He also warned against operating on hope. "If you think the industry is changing, you can't just hope that your same animals are going to be different." On the issue of how big the animal's frame should be, Long said that a bull that produces calves which grow fast and efficiently with good quality beef is the right size. He also stressed the importance of good records which are ac-

curate. He said cross breeding is important.

Dr. Gary Minish, UPI of Virginia, said cross breeding is primarily being used for reproductive efficiency and vigor.

He also said that cattlemen can make twice as much money by improving the birth rate of their animals than by improving carcass cutability.

Dr. Minish repeatedly urged

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Crowd gathers in the Twin Oaks field to hear the farm's operation discussed. In the foreground cattle munch on hay as the last of

the contestants in the judging competition complete their score cards.

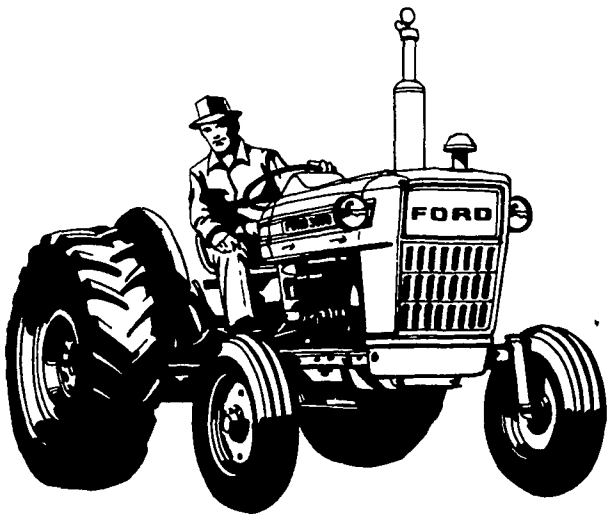
that sire selection is the fastest way for the individual cattleman to change his herd from what it is to what he wants it to be.

He emphasized that it's extremely difficult or impossible for cattlemen to accumulate a sizeable herd of top quality cows from other cattlemen. About the only way to get a herd that's in the top one per cent in the industry is through using a quality sire, he emphasized.

In comparing cattle and production results, cattlemen should be extremely careful to "compare cattle that were treated alike." This includes comparison of nutrition and disease records, age, and environment. An animal which performs well under one set of conditions may not perform well when the conditions are changed, he indicated.

He warned against selecting a bull for traits which are not heritable. He also urged selecting a bull that is different, that will take the herd rapidly to where the breeder wants it to be. He stated that with conditions in the cattle industry today it's impossible to move too fast.

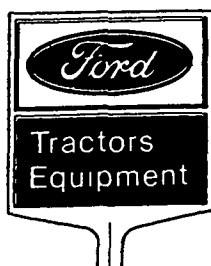
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