

Beef Breeders Voice Concern For Future of Steer Shows

Concern over the future of the nation's steer shows and their present low value to the beef industry has been expressed by the U.S. Beef Breeds Council, whose members said they cannot continue to accept "some common practices" of exhibitors at those shows.

Composed of nine established beef breed registries, the Council stated that "some positive changes must take place if steer shows are to regain their beneficial objectives", and "if those changes cannot be implemented, the major emphasis of breed associations should be shifted to junior breeding heifer shows".

The Council met in Kansas City to consider methods of implementing rules and procedures which would make the junior steer shows of more educational value and more meaningful to the beef industry. The Council recently recommended the elimination of "open" or adult

steer shows. That recommendation is generally being accepted at most major shows.

The discussions concerning Junior steer shows ranged from expressions of futility in supervising equitable rules for shows and controlling ineligible exhibitors to high hopes that the shows could be made even more meaningful than in the past.

Council members generally agreed that the steer program was a worthwhile activity for youth, and that the benefits to youth in educational value and self discipline and leadership development justified the continued support of the Council. They also agreed that steer shows were of benefit to the beef industry in training young breeders and for promotion of purebred seedstock.

However, the future effectiveness of those shows depended on drastic and sweeping changes which would require close supervision and

enforcement, the Council said.

The Council agreed that the most significant problem was in the identification, including permanent identification of the individual steer and of the owner, and the age and breed of steer.

The Council recommended that all steers be fire branded at the beginning of the project before they are shown in the exhibitor's county show, and certainly before entrance in shows of state level or higher. This identification would have to be made at least 120 days prior to the show, using a code system that would reveal the breed and the state from which the entry was made.

The Council also recommended that all shows have a uniform ownership requirement of at least 120 days prior to their respective show date.

Both the identification and entry deadline recommendations would help eliminate a practice of some exhibitors who purchase an animal at one show for exhibit at later shows, Council members explained.

Each breed association would assume the responsibility of determining eligibility of entries by breed identity. In case of disputes, a respective breed representative or a committee selected by the respective breed association would rule and decide on the exhibitor's eligibility to receive association premiums.

The Council restated earlier

USDA Proposes Changed Dairy Inspection and Grading Rules

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed changes in its voluntary dairy inspection and grading program to limit appeals for reinspection or regrading of products contaminated by filth or other harmful substances.

Under the dairy inspection and grading program, any interested party who disagrees with the original inspection or grading of a product may appeal the findings. The proposal would limit such an appeal on contaminated

products to a review of the sampling procedures and a reinspection of the original official sample.

The limitation is being proposed because such substances are not evenly distributed throughout a product. Thus, reinspection using a different sample, as may be done in other appeals, might in this case result in inaccurate findings.

The proposed changes also would update some of the wording in present regulations to reflect current inspection and grading practices and organizational structure.

The dairy inspection and grading program is administered by the Dairy Division of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, and is paid for by the user.

The proposed amendments appeared in the June 8 Federal Register. Anyone wishing to comment should send written views and comments in duplicate to the Hearing Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 112, Administration Building, Washington, D.C. 20250, by July 10. All comments will be available for public inspection.

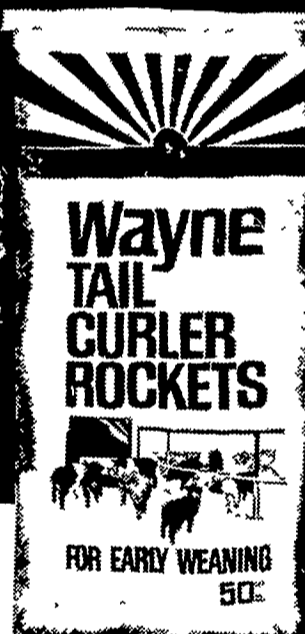
Solar System

The solar system is the sun with its group of celestial bodies which, held by its attraction, revolve around it. This group includes, so far as is known, nine major planets with 31 satellites, minor planets or asteroids and, also, comets and meteors.

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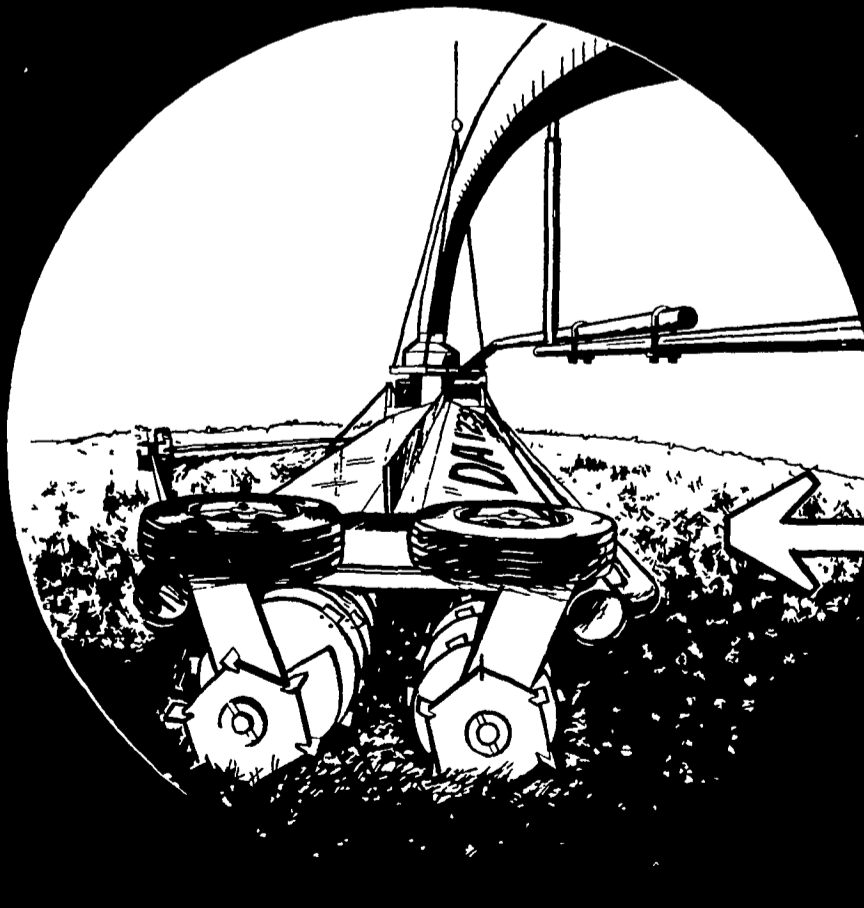
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