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FARM TRENDS

A summary of market and commodity news for the past week

by Dick Wanner

Sorry, Charolais

Last year, just about every baby beef event in local fairs was dominated by Charolais cattle. The dawning of a new day in the beef industry was forecast by some, with the Charolais breed shining like the sun. Thursday night, though, observers saw Charolais, Angus and Hereford entries eclipsed by a very meaty Simmental-Angus cross. Simmental backers are predicting great things for the breed. They know they're going to have to reckon though, with the Italian Chianina which is now being bred into existing American stock. Purebred Chianina are expected to be available here by 1975.

Americans don't know yet what quality meat they can get from Simmental, Chianina and any other exotic breeds that might come along. They do know they can get a lot of meat from these animals, and that consideration is probably more important now that it's ever been.

Beef Takes a Dip

Consumers are going to find beef prices down considerably in the next few weeks, according to predictions from the American Meat Institute. This downward trend in retail prices is expected to follow the wholesale price decline which has materialized since the lifting of the price freeze on beef. Few prognosticators dared to say prices would fall after the freeze was lifted, but they were generally agreed they wouldn't go up much. There's evidently still some consumer resistance to retail prices, and wholesaler supplies, according to some figures, are beginning to back up. This condition must ultimately show up in auction prices, and has already brought local and national auction prices down to between \$45 and \$50 where just a few weeks ago choice cattle were selling for as high as \$61 a hundredweight.

"There Are Cheaper Ways to Build Character"

To end a column that's turned into a beef special, we quote an observer at the Solanco Fair Baby Beef Show on Thursday night. "There aren't as many entries this year as last year, and I think it's because of the high feeder prices. If a family has three children with beef projects, they'll have \$1000 tied up in steers. Baby beef projects are fine, but there are lots cheaper ways to build character."

Winners Named at 24th Solanco Fair

Perfect weather greeted visitors to the 24th annual Southern Lancaster County Community Fair, which opened officially on Wednesday and closed Friday.

The highlight of Wednesday's events was the dairy show,

which, this year, was bigger than ever. Close to 140 animals were entered this year, compared to just over 100 in the 1972 show. Asked if this meant there were more cows in the Solanco area, or just more interest in the show, one fair official said interest in the competition was the key factor.

Wednesday also saw the judging of crops, and the crops exhibit this year was a real dazzler. Ken Rutt, general manager of the fair, said the crops on display looked better this year than any other year he could remember.

Thursday's competition started with tractor driving, continued on through the evening with the cattle and swine shows and ended with the FFA and open tug-o-war championships. This year's champion FFA rope pullers were the Oxford chapter. Octorara was second and Manheim was third.

Results of Wednesday's dairy competition, by breed, were:

Holstein

Junior Calf - John Welk, first; Maurice Welk, second. Intermediate Calf - Linda Akers, first; Gary Akers, second. Senior Calf - Jim Bucher, first; Maurice Welk, second. Junior Yearling - Donna Akers, first; Carl Troop,

second. Senior Yearling -- Edgefield Farms, first; Tom Galbreath, second. Two-year-old - Edgefield Farms, first; Gary Akers, second. Three-year-old - Carl Troop, first; Maurice Welk, second. Four-year and older - Maurice Welk, first; Jim High, second. Junior Get - Jim High, first. Best Three Females - Edgefield Farms. Dairy Herd - Maurice Welk. Dam-Daughter - Edgefield Farms. Best Udder - Maurice Welk; Jim High, reserve. Junior Division Champion - Gary Akers; Linda Akers, reserve.

Ayrshire

Senior Calf - Warren Schmuck, first; Leroy Sensenig, second.

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Farm Calendar

Saturday, September 22

Harvest Fair, Schaefferstown, September 22-23.

Monday, September 24

7 p.m. - Fulton Grange Community Night, Oakryn.

PA All-American Dairy Show, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg, September 24-28. Bloomsburg Fair, September 24-29.

Tuesday, September 25

7 p.m. - Inter-State Milk Producers' Coop Annual Dinner meeting, District 6, Blue Ball Fire Hall.

Ephrata Fair, September 25-29. Oley Valley Fair, September 25-29.

Eastern National Holstein Show, Harrisburg, September 27-28.

Wednesday, September 26

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. - PA. Broiler-Breeder Workshop, Farm and Home Center.

West Lampeter Community Fair, September 26-28.

Thursday, September 27

Lancaster County Swine Producers Board of Directors meeting, Farm and Home Center.

PA All-American Invitational Holstein Sale, Harrisburg.

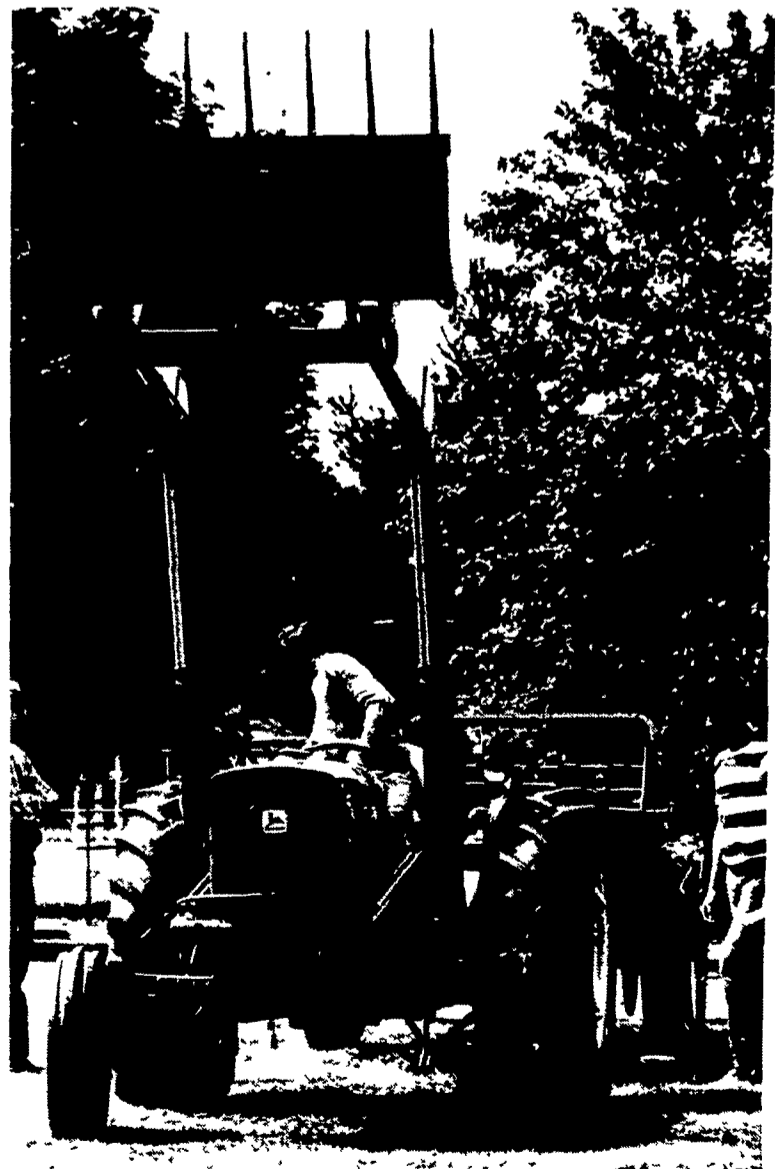
Saturday, September 29

60th Annual Horticulture Show, Penn State, September 29-30.



Bob and Joyce Wagner, Quarryville RD2, are shown with their Guernseys which took grand and reserve champion honors in

breed competition Wednesday afternoon at the 24th annual Solanco Community Fair.



Tractor driving competition was a highlight of Thursday's events at the Solanco Community Fair this week.