

Changes Planned for Traditional Auction of Farm Show Entries

HARRISBURG -- The traditional Friday afternoon wind-up of the Pennsylvania State Farm Show -- the auction of all entries in the 4-H Baby Beef and the 4-H Market Lamb classes -- will have a total change of format at the 58th show which opens at the Farm Show complex, Monday, January 7, for a five-day run.

First of all, the sale will be shifted from the Mam Arena to the newly refurbished small arena which is really not all that small, with a comfortable seating capacity of 1,500.

Secondly, the Vocational (F.F.A.) Market Hogs class has been expanded to include, for the first time, a Market Hog Sale in the small arena, Friday afternoon, starting at 12:30 p.m. and immediately preceding the market lamb and baby beef (steer) sales.

And third, all three shows and sales have been redesignated as Junior shows so that both 4-H and FFA members will be able to enter all three events.

It is anticipated that buyers from the Commonwealth's leading abattoirs will patronize the hog sale in the same manner

that they have the steer and lamb sales in the past. That is, the junior livestock feeder with the grand champion hog can expect to take home a check for many times the current market price for a slaughter hog.

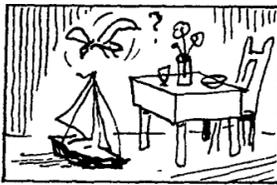
The tradition of paying a premium for the honor of taking home the grand champion baby beef started a long time ago, in the mid-20's, but records prior to 1948 are unavailable. Howard Johnson Restaurants fed the tradition and succeeded in pushing the bidding to \$5.31 per pound in 1966 for a 1,060 pound Hereford steer. In 1972, Donnie Dorwart, Lancaster County, won and although he was bid only \$5.17 per pound, the 1,175 pound weight of his fat Angus pushed the total price to a new record, \$5,992.50.

At last year's show, all records tumbled. Myers Foodtown, Dillsburg, York County, bid \$5.48 per pound to gross \$6,439 for the tearful but happy youthful exhibitor, Linda Miller, Halifax, Dauphin County.

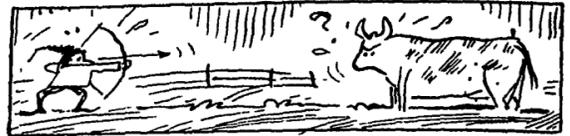
A record that is likely to stand longer than Babe Ruth's homerun total was the paycheck that Julia Staver, Dauphin

County, took home two years ago for her 91-pound Dorset market lamb. In 1971, the grand champion market lamb brought \$9.00 per pound, a 50 percent jump on the top dollar paid six years earlier. But in 1972, Julia stood by in a state of happy shock as she watched the bidding to to \$32.00 per pound and a payoff of \$2,912, generally believed not only to be a Farm Show record, but probably the most money paid anywhere in the world for a market lamb.

What will the first grand champion junior market hog bring? No one will really know until the auctioneer cries, "Sold!" but you can be sure it will be much more than the current market price of 45 cents per pound.



A belief that's basically for the birds is that an albatross hovering above a ship would bring on bad weather!



The early English were struck by the notion that elves shot at cattle with little bows and arrows, and that these arrowheads could be worn to ward off lightning!

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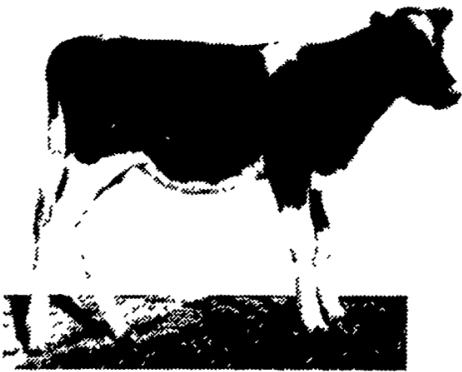
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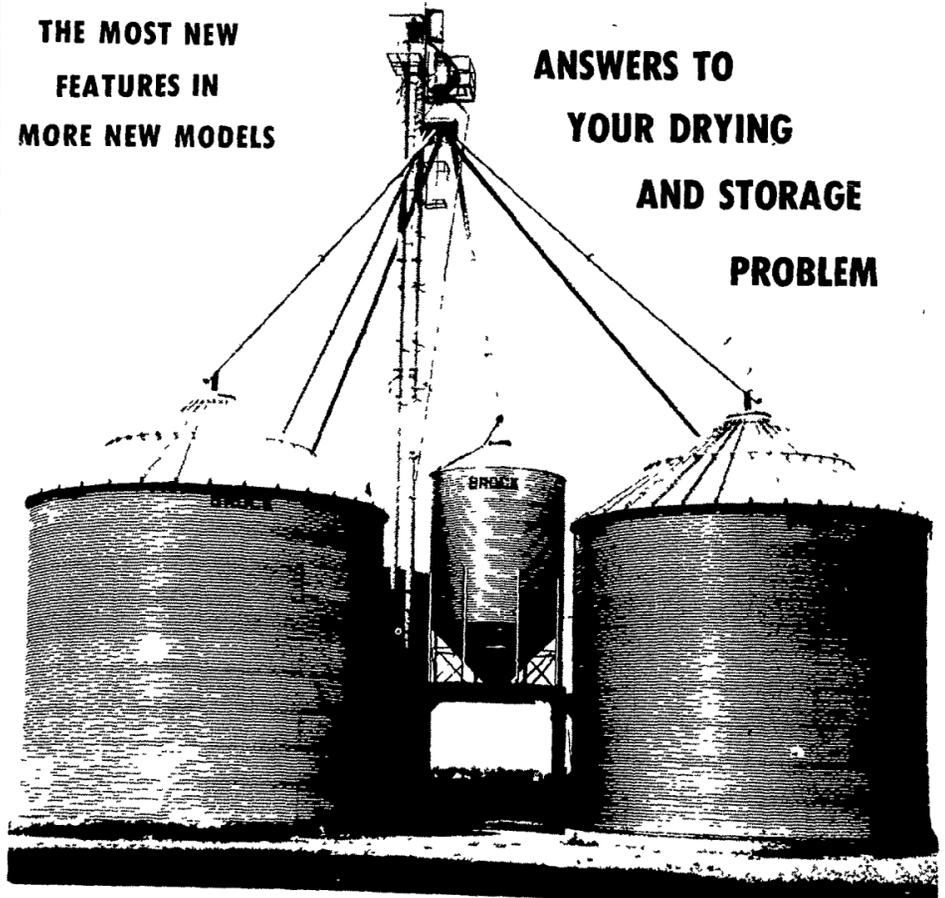
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