

## Polled Charolais Inspection Ready

Verification of smooth polled Charolais cattle through visual inspection and subsequent identification of those cattle on individual pedigrees has been established by American - International Charolais Association.

Dr. J. W. Gossett, executive vice president of the Houston-based breed association, described the program as one that would give permanent identification to smooth polled

Charolais and also would assist in the development of information associated with the extent of polledness within the breed.

"Although naturally a horned breed, Charolais cattle have witnessed a phenomenal increase in the incidence of polledness in recent years," he said. "The association's grading-up or breeding-up program involving the use of other breed dams and purebred Charolais bulls has resulted

in the polled gene being brought forward generation by generation from original polled dams. These true polled cattle need to be permanently identified.

The inspection and verification program is totally voluntary on the part of breeders, who must pay all costs involved for inspection. Also, only smooth polled cattle will qualify for certificate identification. Thus, animals scurred or with scabs are ineligible for verification. The inspection and verification will be conducted by the association staff, as requested by individual breeders. Several breeders in an area may join together to help defray travel costs of the verifiers.

When an animal is verified as smooth polled by the verifier, the animal's original registration certificate will be picked up at the time of inspection, and a new certificate carrying the prefix VP-verified polled-in front of the animal's registration number will be issued the breeder. The prefix will become a permanent part of that animal's record.

A numerical scoring system designed to classify head characteristics also has been developed by the association for future use in compiling breed data. This system involves the assignment of a number for the extent of polledness (smooth polled, scabs, scurred, or horns); head shape (extreme peak, peak, round or flat); size of the scur or horn, if any, (none, a scab, small, medium, large, or removed); and the presence or absence of bumps.

This information, however, will not become a part of the association's historical record of individual animals, but will be available for future statistical purposes or for individual breeder use.

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Leon B. Hershey, left, Paradise, field manager with Vigortone Products Company, recently received a diploma from the Vigortone Sales Management Institute held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Hershey completed an

intensive one-week course of study involving livestock nutrition, product knowledge, territory management and sales techniques. He was presented his diploma by Vigortone's president, Art Swarzentruer.



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