

Hereford herd sells for record price

Beef cattle history was written Saturday, July 19, when the Polled Hereford herd at R. W. Jones Jr. Farm was dispersed for a world record \$9,844 average, a figure thought to be the

highest ever paid for a purebred herd of any breed.

Facilities in the small crossroads town of Leslie, Ga., and nearby cities were taxed to the limit by the tremendous crowd that

began gathering several days beforehand for a last look at the world-famed herd established three decades ago by the late Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Jones Jr. and son Viktor. Ringside seats were filled

hours before the sale got underway, and people stood dozens deep to pay final tribute to the herd that held nearly every performance record in the book.

The nine bulls in the offering, five of them herd sires, averaged \$13,267 and the 71 female lots \$9,410 for a gross of \$787,500 on 80 lots. The first 20 lots in the ring averaged \$19,213 and the first 50 lots \$13,300, with the top 25 lots averaging \$20,074. Forty-eight calves, most of them dropped in November and December, sold off their dams — the 21 bulls at a \$9,681 average and the 27 heifers at a \$3,683 figure. Twelve bred heifers averaged \$3,867 and 58 bred cows \$5,504.

Several bidding combines were formed at ringside as the sale progressed, among the most determined of them Cinderella Acres, Dawson, Ga., M. E. Williams Jr. of Ensco, Albany, Ga., and Pine Acre Farms, Dawson, Ga. This trio accounted for four of the top bulls in the offering, including the \$47,500 high selling bull calf, the \$45,000 top herd sire RWJ VICTOR 76 330 and a pair of bull calves by RWJ Victor J3 266, one at \$18,500 and another at \$16,250. The

Life on the farm

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later most of the rest of a dozen or more escapees focused their attention in our direction, all of them seemingly ready to explode into a run through the wet grass and corn field. We knew they could.

They studied our moves, and we studied theirs, coaxing them with words and actions. It's like walking in your bare feet in a room filled with mousetraps.

Dad had opened the hole in the fence to make a large entrance into the pasture. Ingo and I herded them along the edge of the field, constantly taking an "inventory" of numbers and names.

All of a sudden the corn stalks began to crack. Two previously undetected cows were giving their secret away, never missing a bite as they ran away. There was no time for them now, however. The 14 we were

trying to get rounded up were more important. All but two went in, after which they were escorted several hundred yards away from the scene.

The remaining four joined up and were by this time a little worried about what was happening. As long as there was a fairly large group out, they wanted to remain at large, but now they wanted to join the rest of the herd. Consequently they trotted down alongside the fence until they could go no further. We opened a gate and watched them "high-tail it" to their herdmates. Then we walked back to where the fence was broken to close it up as best we could for the time being.

Soaked to the skin by the steady rainfall, we returned to the house to clean up and climb back into bed for the few hours that remained before milking time.

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Soybean grading standards changed

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Changes in federal grading standards for soybeans, aimed at improving the quality of U.S. exports, were recommended this week to Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz by representatives of the American Soybean Association (ASA).

The present grading system under certain circumstances allows an incentive for reducing the quality within the grade by blending soybeans containing excessive amounts of foreign materials with cleaner beans.

"One of ASA's recommendations would be to minimize that incentive," said Seymour Johnson of Indianola, Miss., chairman of ASA's Quality and Standards Committee.

ASA also recommended

\$47,500 calf was a November son of \$100,000 RWJ Victor J3 212 with an adjusted 205-day weaning weight of 689 lb. His \$10,500 dam went to Maybelle Farm, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada, for a top lot total of \$58,000.

Both the high selling cow and the top bred heifer were among the 18 head purchased by Canadian breeders. James C. Johnstone of Birch Hills, Sask., paid \$11,500 for a coming 5-year-old cow by RWJ Victor F18 J3 (also getting her heifer calf for \$6,000); and Maybelle gave \$11,000 for a 1,080-lb. December '73 heifer by RWJ Victor J3 212 bred to RWJ Victor 678 121.

The high selling heifer calf at \$10,000 was a November '74 daughter of RWJ Victor J3 212 that went to Oceanside Farm, Snow Hill, Md.

The cattle sold into 21 states and two Canadian provinces. Volume buyers with 11 purchases each were E. B. Gee Ranch, East Prairie, Mo., and AB Distributors, Jacksonville, Fla.

that USDA provide personnel at major foreign ports to monitor the quality of shipments of U.S. soybeans.

"The need to restore the confidence of our overseas customers is vital," said Jackson. "ASA is making every effort to work with USDA and other segments of the soybean industry in solving the problem."

Other ASA representatives meeting with Sec. Butz were Merlyn Groot of Manson, Iowa; Eugene Glock of Rising City, Neb., and Fernie C. Laughinghouse of Pantego, N.C.

Art auction slated

The 25th annual Echo Valley Art Auction will be held Saturday, September 13th at 1 p.m. The event will take place in the pavilion at the Brookside Swim Club just East of Park City next to Long Park.

A Special gallery display for the work offered for auction will be featured with major works of the artists included. Gift certificates will be drawn at 2:00, 2:30, and 3 p.m. Winners can use their certificate toward any work offered.

The auction was organized to provide the public an opportunity to purchase original art at below normal prices. The work consists of paintings, drawings, prints, sculpture and jewelry. Group members serve traditionally as auctioneers.

The sale provides an excellent opportunity to purchase gifts for Christmas, weddings and to add to collections.

If big round bales are to be stored outside in windy areas, it is a good idea to make three or four wraps of twine to prevent wind damage to the bale surface.

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