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Champion steer brings \$8,256

HARRISBURG — The 60th annual Pennsylvania Farm Show drew to a close last week with the grand champion of the junior steer show selling for a record \$6.40 a pound, or a total of \$8,256.

The steer, "Norman," exhibited by James D Greider, 19, of Columbia R2, was a 1290-pound Angus-Chianina crossbred. It was sold to Robert Myers for Arnold's Food Rite at Mount Holly Springs, Cumberland County. Myers also bought the reserve champion shown by Bonnie Sue Frey of Refton, at \$2.25 a pound or a total of \$2,835.

In the bidding on the grand champion steer, the price moved up slowly and stalled at six dollars a pound, 30 cents short of last year's record price. Acting Agriculture Secretary Raymond J Kerstetter then stepped into the ring to lead

the steer to a record bid of \$6.40 a pound. Gredier, a graduate of Hempfield High School, said he will use the money from the sale to invest in farming. He hopes to enter into a partnership with his father on their 350-acre dairy farm.

xxx
Decision is a sharp knife that cuts clean and straight; indecision a dull one that hacks and tears and leaves ragged edges behind it.

xxx
The trouble with being a leader today is that you can't be sure whether people are following you or chasing you.

Myers has dominated the junior steer sales in recent years, having bought the grand champion for four years in a row. For the past three years, the steers were bought for Myers' Dillsburg store.

Clouds seen

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dairy industry will get the short end of the stick," he said. Backing up his claim, he proceeded to read excerpts from a speech delivered by Earl Butz in London on Nov. 28 of last year. He pointed out that the speech was given abroad, possibly because of the shock waves it might have created here.

The Butz speech reads, in part: "We recognize that our import quotas on dairy products are onerous (burdensome) to agricultural interests in Europe. The countervailing duties that our law provides when products are exported to the U.S. under subsidy are not popular here. We believe, however, that they are justified and necessary in the trading world that exists today."

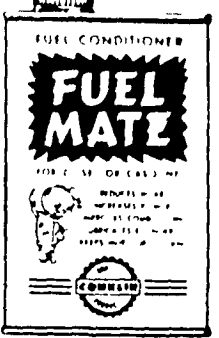
"In any case, we are willing to lay these matters on the negotiating table. We believe it is time to examine all trade restrictions affecting agricultural products. We think that trade policies should not be used to prevent change in a world that is crying for change. We should not use the need for stability as an excuse for status quo."

"It happens that in the U.S. we have the unique advantages in the production of grains, soybeans, and certain other field crops. Mostly, these are natural advantages that we cannot take credit for but must nevertheless recognize. In Europe, your climate and topography are such as to favor forage production - hence, livestock and dairy production. This symbiotic relationship between your agriculture and ours suggests an increase in trade with advantages to both sides."

What Meyer gleans from this is that Butz might be willing to replace a segment of the U.S. dairy industry for the sake of trading grain with European countries.

In other comments, the editor noted that milk production has been increasing per cow and per month, when compared with figures a year ago. He believes that there might be too many cows on farms right now, probably because of the low meat prices. The feed situation looks more favorable to livestock and dairy production this year and he added that many Midwestern farmers have two crops of soybeans on their farms right now.

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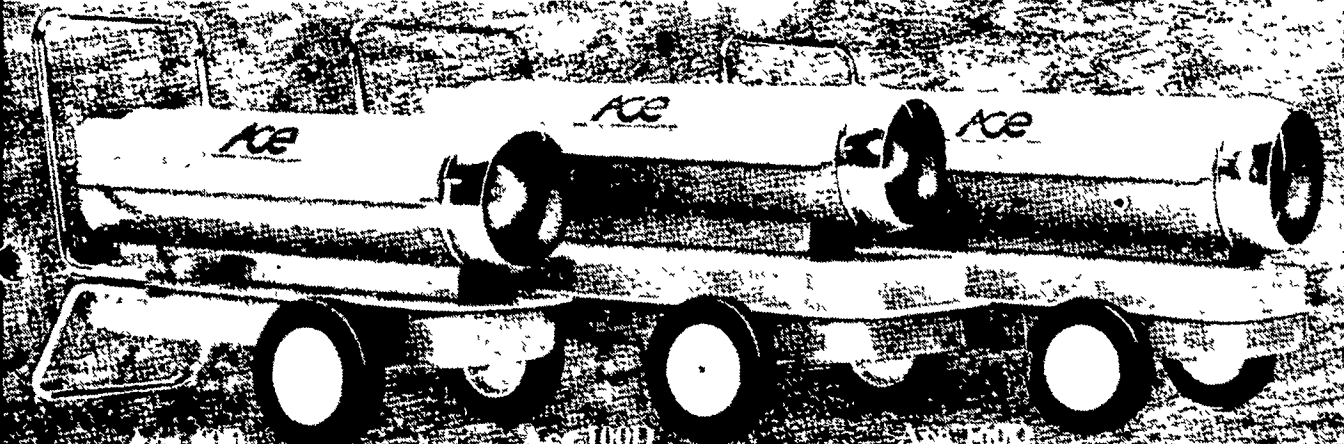
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