

Now is

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First NE region Chianina field day held

By JOANNE SPAHR

WRIGHTSVILLE - More than 500 breeders of Chianina beef cattle assembled at Dutchman Breeding Systems, Lauxmont Farms, on Saturday, August 21, for the first Northeastern Region Chianina Field Day.

This breed, used primarily as a terminal cross, has the distinction of being the world's large breed of beef cattle. Brought into the country no more than 4½ years ago, it is gaining a following because of its ability to upgrade other breeds in size and growth rate. And, in comparison to other exotic breeds used in a cross, Chianinas have very few calving problems.

"The calves come out long, slim shouldered, and slim at the hips," explained Dr. Lee Miller, a Chianina breeder and veterinarian from Woodsboro, Md.

The highlights of this first field day were judging contests in the morning, a beef barbeque for lunch, a benefit sale in the afternoon, and an exhibition and showing of project steers and heifers by junior club members. Two of the best animals were also chosen to attend the national show in Kansas City, Mo., on November 12 and 13.

The two animals picked to attend the national competition were a half-blood Chianina Angus steer owned by Mar Lee Farms, Woodsboro, Md., and a three-quarter Chianina owned by Twin Oaks Farms, Quarryville, Pa.

The donation sale, held to raise funds for the promotion of Chianinas in the Northeast Region, was a success with several items selling well into the \$100 bracket. One quilt even hit the 200 mark.

Three Chianina animals were sold as part of the auction. A three-quarter bull brought \$225, a pair of heifers, which were a half-blood and a three-quarter blood together brought \$925, and another bred half-blood brought \$320.

The afternoon's junior show had a total of 40 entries and saw some stiff competition. The grand champion for the show was an animal owned by Robert Miller of Mar Lee Farms, Woodsboro, Md. The reserve champion was shown by Janice Kaylor of Elizabethtown, Pa.

Top placings for the various classes are as follows:

Class I - Bret Ritter, Boiling Springs; Class II - Jim Glass, Millbrook, N.Y.; Class III - Janice Kaylor, Elizabethtown, Pa.; Class IV - Robert Miller, Woodsboro, Md.; Class V - Robert Miller

Approximately 150 of Lauxmont Farm's 200 Chianina animals were judged during the morning's festivities. The top winners in each division were: Men's - Bill Halloway; Women's - Phyllis Fry, Top place individual - Jeff Treadway; Top team - Lancaster County; Weight guessing - John Frey

The official for the day was Nick Overpeck, Clinton, Ind. Some "celebrities" who were on hand to enjoy the

day were Dr. John Phillips, chief executive officer of the American Chianina Association, Jim Glass, national director for the Northeast Region, John Coble, special activities director of the American Chianina Association, and Richard Koonce, field representative of the American Chianina Journal. Of course, there was also Lombard, the 2850 pound purebred Chianina bull which has the distinction of being the only purebred Chianina bull in the Northeastern States.

According to Ron Kohr, president of Dutchman Cattle Breeding Systems, the field day will become annual event held at Lauxmont Farms. The 1400-acre farm will also be the site of the November 5 Chianina cattle sale to be held in conjunction with the Eastern National Livestock Exhibition, Timonium, Md.



Robert Miller, left, and Janice Kaylor, right, had the top two animals at the first annual Chianina field day. Robert showed the grand champion and Janice showed the reserve grand champion.

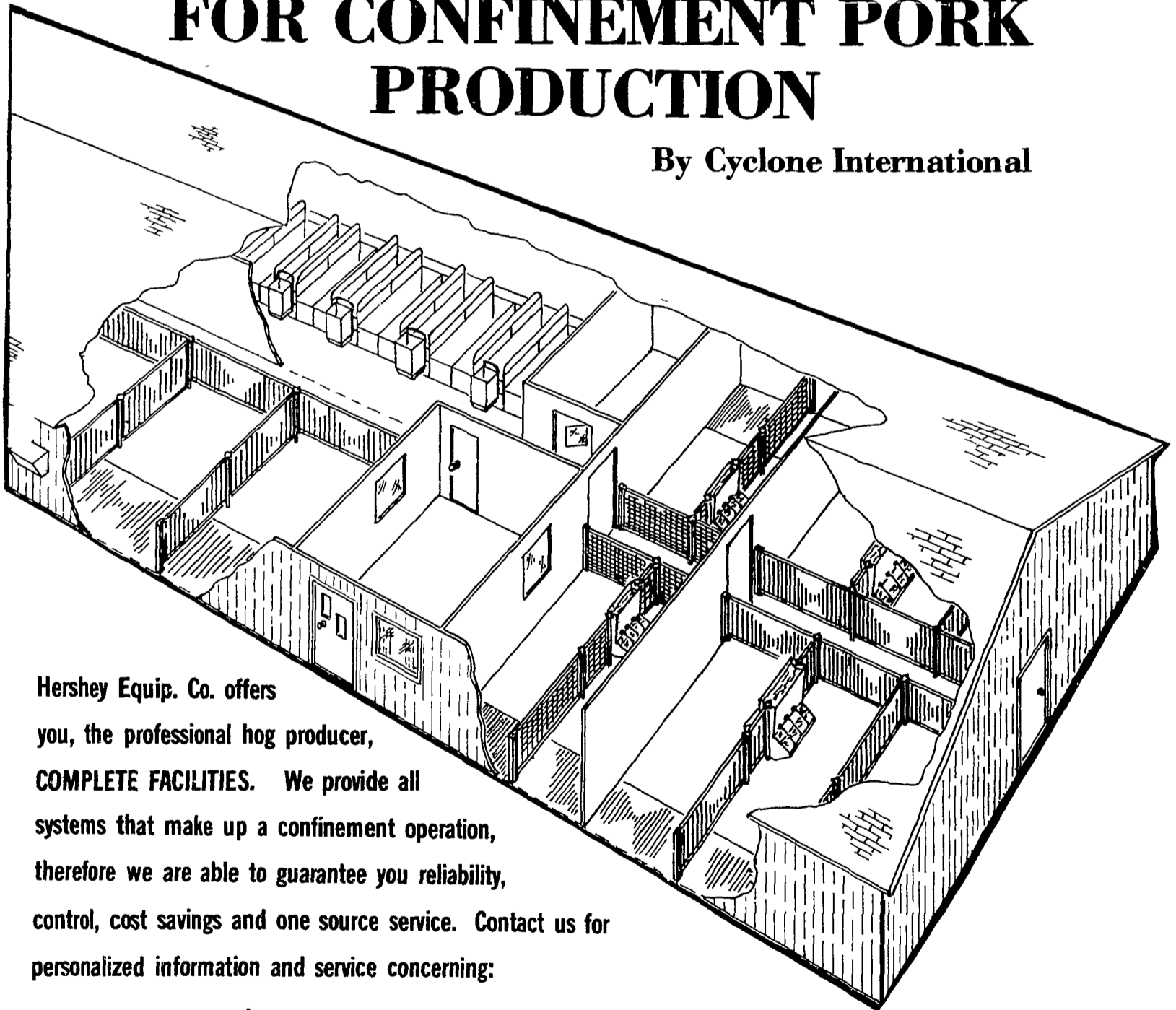
cattle each week. When many cattle get to weighing over 1200 pounds they are carrying excess fat and will get a lower yield grade and less price per pound. Following the markets daily is strongly suggested at this time of the year.

TO MANAGE ALFALFA STANDS

Again I repeat the importance of good managing of the alfalfa stand, if it is to be kept for next year. Cutting in early September is acceptable if the stand has been allowed to come into nearly full bloom at one of the previous cuttings. However, to make all cuttings in the pre-bloom stage is dangerous and may hurt the root system. In this area, alfalfa plants are developing root rhizomes during mid to late September and the plant should not be cut at that time. Cutting in early September, or after a killing frost, should not hurt well fertilized stands that have been allowed to reach nearly full bloom at one time during the season.

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