

Bossie travels in a big way

U.S. exporters of dairy cattle will have to scramble if they hope to top last year's successes.

During calendar year 1975, the number and value of animals shipped, as well as the number of importing countries, all reached record highs.

USDA issued health certificates for roughly 73,000 dairy breeding cattle for export last year, compared with about 58,000 in 1974. Valued at an estimated \$58 million, the animals traveled to 57 countries in 1975, three more than a year earlier.

North American countries proved the biggest customer when, paced by Mexico and Canada, shipments shot up 65 per cent to over 50,500 head. But North America's share of total U.S. dairy exports slipped from 75 to 69 per cent.

The Middle East picked up some of the slack, with purchases vaulting 553 per cent last year to nearly 10,000

head. Inspectors okayed 9,200 dairy cattle for transport to Iran, but actual shipments may have run slightly less. In some cases, health certificates expired due to delays in air shipments.

Shipments to South America climbed more than 150 per cent to 4,200 animals, while European importers upped their purchases slightly to around 6,300 head.

Meantime, exports to Asian nations skidded by more than half to around 2,000 head, and fewer than 500 animals touched down in Africa, compared with 824 the year before.

In a breakdown of who buys what, Canada came up the No. 1 customer for two of the five breeds exported.

All but six of the 201 Ayrshires leaving the States came off the ramp in Canada, as well as three-fourths of all the Guernseys shipped. Mexico corralled the most Holsteins, Jerseys, and Brown Swiss.

The most exported breed in 1975? Holsteins, with a record 67,000 of the 73,000 animals shipped. Jerseys also chalked up a record sales year, accounting for 1,050 head.

Forty-two States had a hand in last year's shipments. Wisconsin led the country with over 16,300 head, and California placed second with close to 12,700. Exports of 6,000 animals put Minnesota in third place, followed closely by Texas, with 5,400 head.

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Waterfowl seasons set for Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG - Waterfowl seasons and bag limits for 1976 have been established by the Pennsylvania Game Commission within frameworks set up by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

There will again be split seasons this year on both ducks and geese. Canvasback or redhead ducks can be taken for the first time since 1971, bonus scaup can be taken on Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay throughout the entire duck season, and hunters will again be able to harvest both snow and blue geese.

The initial season for ducks, sea ducks, coots, mergansers and Canada geese will open at noon on October 13. The early season on ducks, coots and mergansers will end at sunset on November 20, while the early season for Canada geese will end on December 4.

The second season for ducks, sea ducks, coots and mergansers will open at noon on December 1, and close at sunset on December 11. The second season for Canada geese will open on December 30, and close on January 15.

The season for snow and blue geese will open at noon on October 13, and close at sunset on November 11.

No hunting will be permitted for any migratory waterfowl before noon on October 13, and hunting will be prohibited for ducks, coots, sea ducks and mergansers before noon on December 1.

Depressed populations of brant have led to a closing of the season on these birds in 1976.

Hunters interested in applying for goose blinds at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in Lebanon and Lancaster Counties or at the Pymatuning Waterfowl Area in Crawford County should note that the opening day of waterfowl hunting at Middle Creek will be October 14, and waterfowl hunting will begin at Pymatuning on October 15.

The daily bag limit for ducks will again be four, with a possession limit of eight after the first day. Hunters this year may again take 15 coots daily, with a possession limit of 30. The 1976 bag limit on mergansers remains at five daily and 10 in possession.

Three Canada geese may be taken per day, except in Crawford County (including the Pymatuning Waterfowl Area) and at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management area in Lebanon and Lancaster Counties, where the daily limit will be one. The possession limit on Canada geese will be six after the first day of the season.

A gunner may not take more than two wood ducks per day, and he may not have more than two woodies in possession at any time after the opening day.

For additional details, hunters should contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission in Harrisburg, phone 717-787-3745.



The word "Spain" comes from an ancient term meaning "land of rabbits."

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