

Wye Angus herd given to university

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — In what Dr. W. Lamar Harris, director of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, describes as one of the most significant contributions ever made to Maryland agriculture, the University of Maryland at College Park is receiving the bulk of one of the world's most famous Angus beef cattle breeding herds.

The proposed gift is being offered by Arthur A. Houghton, Jr. chairman of Steuben Glass and director of Corning Glass Works, both located at Corning, N.Y.

"Mr. Houghton has been a long-time supporter of agricultural research in Maryland and this gift is an example of his continued efforts to improve agriculture within the state and the country. We are highly honored to be considered worthy of receiving this gift," commented Dr. Harris.

A statement made by Houghton said, "I am immensely happy that the herd of Wye Angus is going to the University of Maryland, thereby assuring the integrity of the herd and a continuation of the 40 years of work that he behind it."

From a modest beginning in 1938 with 18 heifers and a bull calf, the herd has steadily grown in size, quality and reputation under the direction of James B. Lingle, first manager of Wye Plantation. The Wye Plantation is located south of Queenstown (Queens Annes County) on Maryland's Eastern Shore — not far from the historic Wye Oak tree.

Regarded in some quarters as one of the great cattlemen of all time, Lingle, with extraordinary foresight and immense work, made Wye Angus famous throughout the world.

Working with him was Dr. Willard W. Green, professor of animal science at the College Park campus, who made invaluable contributions in genetic breeding, scientific research, and analyses of the results of the Wye breeding program. Dr. Green is now retired.

In more recent years the

basic work of Lingle and Green has been carried out further by John R. Whaley, Ill, who succeeded Lingle as manager of Wye Plantation; Marion Whitehead, assistant manager, and James Reid, herd manager.

"It has long been my desire that some assurance be found for the basic Wye Angus herd to remain intact and for the scientific breeding work to be continued. Acceptance of the Wye herd by the University of Maryland as a gift from me and my family now makes it possible. We are particularly pleased that our Wye Angus will remain in our home state of Maryland," concluded Houghton.

The Wye herd was closed to outside cows since its initial establishment in 1938. Additional bulls were added, but the male side of the herd has been closed since 1959.

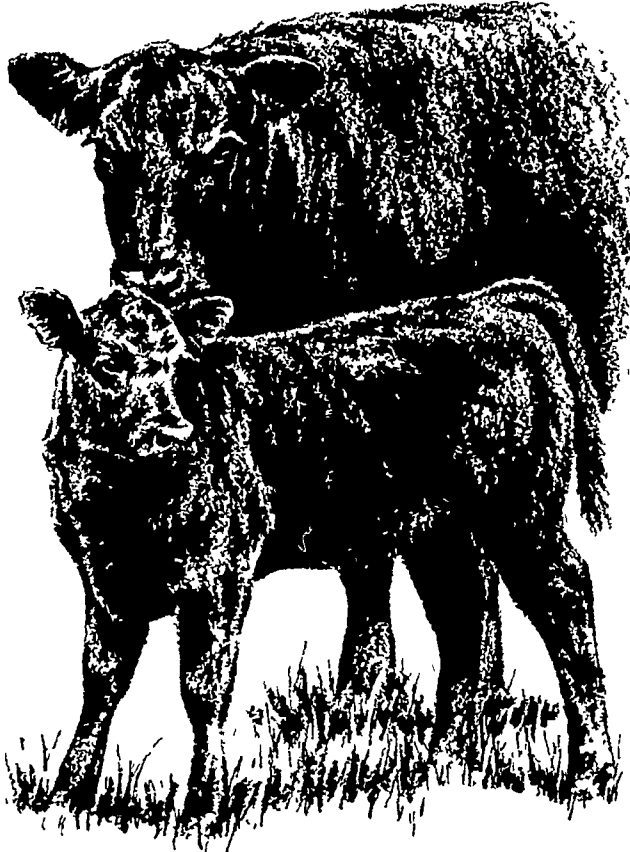
Wye Plantation was one of the first breeders to compile extensive records on cattle in their herd. They now have performance records on all the bulls in the herd going back many generations. All of the Wye Angus bulls have been performance-tested. Wye heifers and bulls have enjoyed world fame.

The late President Lyndon B. Johnson added some of the Wye stock to his herd. Bulls — and semen from Wye bulls — have been shipped to major beef cattle breeders in 42 states and nine foreign countries.

Twelve of the Wye Angus cows have weaned more than four tons of calves each, a phenomenal record for any beef cattle breeder.

Wye Angus cattle are known for their superior fertility. The calving percentage has been between 95 and 97 per cent since 1960. This calving percentage nationally for beef cattle is about 80 per cent. Since 1974, an exceptionally high 91 per cent of the Wye Angus bulls have averaged over three pounds of gain per day.

The gift was officially accepted by the Maryland Board of Regents at their meeting in Baltimore on Jan 20, 1978. The Wye herd will be transferred from its present home at Wye



Plantation to the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station's Beef Research Center near Sykesville during the course of the year.

Although final details have not been worked out, Dr. Edgar P. Young, chairman of the Animal Science Department at the University of Maryland, said that approximately 200 females and five bulls will be selected as the research foundation herd. Other cattle will be used to provide a resource base to carry out the total research program.

Acceptance of this gift will bring worldwide recognition to the University of Maryland. The foundation herd will enhance the Animal Science Department's research, teaching and Extension programs and will help attract faculty, graduate and undergraduate students to the university, according to Dr. Young.

Feeder cattle up from 1977

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania cattle feeders had 98,000 cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market on January 1, 1978, up seven per cent from a year ago, according to the Crop Reporting Service.

Marketing of fed cattle during the October-December 1977 quarter, at 26,000 head, was up four per cent from the same quarter a year earlier. Placements of cattle and calves during October-December totaled 61,000 head, down two per cent from a year ago.

Expected marketings of fed cattle, if realized, during the January-March 1978 quarter, is estimated at 26,000 head, up four per cent from the corresponding quarter in 1977.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 23 major feeding states on January 1, 1978 totaled 12,809,000 head. This is seven per cent above a year ago. Placements of cattle and calves in the 23 states during the October-December 1977 quarter totaled 9,557,000

Dr. Harris stated that the herd and its data bank provide an extremely broad base of research resources that can only be attained over a long period of time with large investments.

Important research results which can be utilized by Maryland's cattle producers can be generated very quickly from the herd, according to Dr. Young.

Houghton's contributions to Maryland agriculture and education have not been overlooked. In 1963 he was awarded an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Maryland; in 1974 the governor of Maryland presented him with a state award for leadership in the field of agriculture; and in November of 1977 he was awarded the Honorary Certificate of Merit Award in Agriculture by the University of Maryland.

head, up nine per cent from 1976.

Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter the past quarter totaled 6,093,000 head, up seven per cent from the same quarter a year ago. Expected marketings in the 23 major feeding states for the January-March 1978 quarter is estimated at 6,541,000 head, up one per cent from the same period a year ago.

AEB moved

PARK RIDGE, Ill — The American Egg Board will be relocating to new offices effective February 6, 1978. All contact with AEB should now be directed to Suite 301, 1460 Renaissance Drive, Park Ridge, Ill 60068, phone Area Code 312-296-7044

TRY A CLASSIFIED

Poultry meetings set

LANCASTER — A series of educational meetings for poultrymen in this area will be held Feb 16, March 2, and March 16. According to Lancaster County Agent Jay Irwin, some very timely and important information will be presented at these meetings by some of the most qualified people in the industry. The Penn State Extension Service and the Lancaster County Poultry Association are sponsoring the meetings.

The first meeting will deal with pest control around the farm and on birds, health security and disease control, and the producer and servicemen's responsibility in preventing the spread of

disease. It'll take place at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center on Feb 16 at 7:30 p.m. The speakers will be Dr. Clarence Collison, entomology specialist from Penn State; Dr. Donald Singletary, Veterinary and Technical Service manager for Victor F. Weaver and Sons, New Holland; and Dr. Dwight Schwartz, poultry veterinarian at Penn State.

At the March 2 meeting, specialists will discuss energy sources and needs, the development of new drugs, world-wide poultry conditions, and marketing.

The final meeting in the series, to be held on March 16, will focus on egg shell problems, and force molting.

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