

Ephrata Young Farmers

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cuts. The yield of usable meat from a carcass can vary greatly, regardless of the meat's quality grade.

Yield grades, according to the USDA, provide an indirect means for reflecting the consumers' preferences back through the retailers and the packers to the producer for beef.

The consumers who only buy retail cuts need not bother with yield grades, since these grades are only used to refer to carcasses and wholesale cuts. But for those who own home freezers and buy "sides" or "quarters", yield grades can be important.

The yield grades measure the yield of boneless, closely trimmed retail cuts from the high-value parts of the carcass. They also reflect the differences in the total yield of retail cuts.

The following represent the expected yields of retail cuts by yield grades;

Yield grade 1: this means the carcass will yield 79.8 per cent or more in retail cuts;

Yield grade 2: 75.2 to 79.7 per cent;

Yield grade 3: 70.6 to 75.1 per cent;

Yield grade 4: 66 to 70.5 per cent;

Yield grade 5: 65.9 per cent or less.

To determine the actual yield grade of a carcass requires a great deal of calculation, but the average consumer can look for several characteristics in a high quality, high-yielding carcass.

According to the report from Penn State, 4 inch of fat, especially over the rib eye, is plenty. One should notice the fat around the flank, over the rump, loin, and rib. There should be thick muscling in the rib, loin, and round, and the chucks should be thick and meaty, not thin and fat. The rib eye should be large in relation to the size of the carcass.

While at the butchering plant, the Young Farmers had the opportunity to examine several carcasses while differences in both their yield and quality grades were explained.



HARRISBURG - The Pa. Department of Environmental Resources and Capitol Region Planning and Development Agency will be co-sponsoring the regional conference on the Pennsylvania Trails Program and Recreation Plan which will be held at 7:30 p.m., February 15, 1979, at the College Center of Harrisburg Area Community College. Both of these programs are part of the Department of Environmental Resources' effort to make recreational facilities and activities available to more of our region's residents.

The agenda for the conference will include a review of both of these programs, a slide show presentation, "round house" discussion of issue by attendees and a question and answer period.

Masonic Homes Ayrshire cited

ELIZABETHTOWN — A 5-year old registered Ayrshire cow at Masonic Homes Farms, here, has completed an official milk production record which is more than twice the national average.

This regional conference is open to all those residents of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, and York Counties who are interested in the improvement and acquisition of recreational facilities and activities.

Some of the issues to be discussed at the conference include: the need for more recreational facilities close to urban centers; the preservation and conservation of scenic, natural and aesthetic areas; the recreational needs of the handicapped; the possible use of quasipublic or private land for trail development; conflicts between motorized and non-motorized trail users, and the possible need for more loop or destination trails.

For more information

regarding either of these programs or the scheduled conference, one can contact Capitol Region Planning and Development Agency at 717-939-7827.

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