

Senate approves bill to make marketing theft federal crime

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Senate Judiciary Committee has approved an amendment to the Criminal Code Reform Act of 1979, endorsed by Livestock Marketing Association, which makes theft committed in connection with interstate livestock marketing a federal crime.

The amendment, introduced by Sen. Max S.

Baucus a Montana democrat, was adopted as a part of the Reform Act, a massive reformation and restructuring of federal criminal laws. The House is considering presently in committee Criminal Code revisions similar to the Senate action, and LMA officials are hopeful the House will adopt a similar amendment.

The Senate amendment, LMA General Manager, C.T. 'Tad' Sanders noted, makes it a federal crime for a person to obtain or use "the property of another with the intent to deprive the other of a right to the property or a benefit of the property, or to appropriate the property to his own use or the use of another, if the property has a value of \$10,000 or more and the offense is committed in connection with livestock marketing in interstate or foreign commerce."

"a practical deterrent to the minority of crooks who threaten the orderly flow of livestock and money in an industry which handled nearly \$50 billion worth of commerce in 1978."

The penalties include up to ten years in prison if the property has a value of more than \$100,000, and up to five years in prison if the property is valued between \$10,000-\$100,000, or an authorized fine for defendants who are individuals, of up to \$250,000.

Sanders also praised the amendment's stiff penalties, saying they should provide

The amendment is the result of LMA's ongoing drive against white-collar criminal activities in the

livestock industry. These crimes, Sanders said, include numerous types of fraudulent schemes, wrongful nonpayment for livestock, criminal conversion of livestock, money or both, embezzlements and counterfeiting.

He also pointed out that the new amendment should not discourage states from enacting model livestock marketing laws. LMA has encouraged the passage of such laws, with Montana the first state to do so in April, 1979.

"In fact, the new federal code specifically authorizes a state or local government

to exercise its' own jurisdiction, simultaneously with that of the federal code, in enforcing state laws applicable to livestock marketing," Sanders said.

He noted the Senate amendment, adopted Dec. 3, "is very compatible with LMA's 'Freedom in Livestock Marketing' campaign, which includes not only freedom of risk, but also freedom of enterprise, competition, product and choice."

The campaign, he said, was instrumental in last year's Congressional deregulation of livestock marketing rates and tariffs.

Top Angus Bulls picked

DENVER, Colo.— The 1980 National Western Angus Bull Sale will offer 74 selected bulls from top Angus herds across the United States and Canada, reports C. K. Allen, executive vice-president of the American Angus Association.

The climax of three major national Angus events to be held in conjunction with the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado, the bull sale has drawn entries from 22 states and Ontario, Canada.

The bulls will be judged at 1:30 p.m., Jan. 14, in the Stadium Arena, with the auction slated for 10 a.m., Jan. 16. The catalog is being printed and will be mailed free to persons who request it, reports Bill Roche, sale manager.

The sale will be launched by Leroy Van Dyke, country music entertainer and auctioneer, who will auction an Angus heifer donated by A.F. Flint and Sons, Bard, New Mexico. Proceeds from the heifer sale will go to the National Junior Angus Association which will be organized this July in Wichita, Kansas.

Angus breeding cattle competition will begin Sunday, afternoon, Jan. 13, with the traditional judging of carloads and pens of bulls in the Stockyards.

More competition will be held as the nation's largest livestock show sets the stage for the 1980 National Angus Show, which has attracted a record-breaking number of entries, according to Dean

Hurlbut, director of activities for the Association.

More than 500 head of Angus bulls and heifers will be on parade to be judged Jan. 14-15 by George Ellis from Columbia, Montana.

Heifers will vie for top honors in the open class show set for 7:30 a.m. Monday, while Tuesday will feature the open class Angus bull competition at 7:30 a.m.

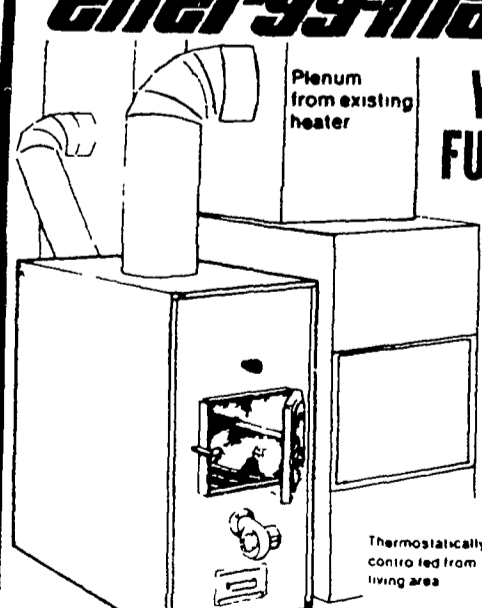
Rounding out the major Angus events at the National Western will be the American Angus Association Annual Meeting, to be held at 2 p.m., Jan. 15, at the Hilton Hotel.

Some 315 delegates from across the country are eligible to take part in the open meeting, where a president, vice-president and five directors will be elected to the board of the Association.

That evening, the Association will sponsor the Annual Banquet and Ball, featuring Chris Christianson as guest speaker.



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