

Brief answers to short questions
Sheila's Shorts

By Sheila Miller

We recently have been publishing market reports of tel-o-auctions run by the Virginia Department of Agriculture, Division of Markets. A number of Lancaster Farming readers have asked, "Where can I call to take part in one of these auctions?"

To find out, I contacted Bill Williams, of Va.DA's market news. In his cordial Southern drawl, Williams proceeded to fill me in on how these auctions work.

He said anyone who wishes to participate needs to get in

touch with a man named Mike Carpenter. Carpenter heads the livestock tel-o-auction at Va.DA. He is the person who will be able to get the interested buyer on the telephone.

The telephone hook-up is limited to nine buyers; but if more buyers are interested in a particular sale, another nine-party line will be connected.

Once a buyer has contacted Carpenter and has cleared his credit reference and check information, he is ready for the sale. One hour

before the sale begins, Carpenter will call the interested buyer and will give him a rundown on the pens.

According to Williams, the buyer will be able to compare the Virginia livestock to what is seen at Pennsylvania auctions because U.S. Department of Agriculture grading standards are used. The buyer will be told the average weight of the pens which were sorted by grade.

When the sale begins, it's just as if the buyer is in the sale ring, except he is actually calling long distance. The buyer will be given a number and the auctioneer will be able to hear him bid. Likewise, the buyer on the telephone will be able to hear everything that's going on at the sale.

The buyer can stay on the line as long as he likes, and can hang up after the first lot

is sold, if he chooses. If two tel-o-auctions are being held on the same day, the buyer can make arrangements to be on the line for both of them.

Once a lot is sold to a buyer using the telephone, trucking arrangements can be made to get the animals to Pennsylvania through Mike Carpenter's office. Carpenter will even arrange to have the truck stop at two sale locations if the buyer bought tel-o-livestock at each auction.

Williams pointed out that most of the tel-o-auctions for slaughter steers are held along with a regular weekly auction. However, the feeder pig tel-o-auctions are held by themselves. Tel-o-auctions are usually held once and sometimes twice a month.

Anyone wishing to participate should contact Mike

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, January 12, 1980—C23

Carpenter at the Va.DA by telephoning 804/786-3951.

Tel-o-auctions scheduled for January are listed below:

FEEDER PIG
Harrisonburg

Jimmy Chambers, sales manager. Telephone: 703/434-6765. Next sale: January 22, 7 p.m.

Cortland
Ben Howell, sales manager. Telephone: 804/562-2143. Next sale: January 24, 4 p.m.

Farmville
Ben Howell, sales manager. Telephone: 804/392-5376. Next sale: January 17, 4 p.m.

Madison Mills
Doug Tucker, sales manager. Telephone: 703/672-2811. Next sale: January 22, 4 p.m.

Petersburg
D.W. Bodson, sales manager. Telephone:

804/733-7671. Next sale: January 17, 4 p.m.

Tappahannock
Bob Hutchinson, sales manager. Telephone: 804/443-3276. Next sale: January 21, 4 p.m.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE
Cortland

Ben Howell, sales manager. Telephone: 804/562-2143. Next sale: January 8.

Fredericksburg
Richard Hardesty, sales manager. Telephone: 703/373-8207. Next sale: January 10.

Madison Mills
Doug Tucker, sales manager. Telephone: 703/672-2811. Next sale: January 12.

Orange
Haywood Darnell, sales manager. Telephone: 703/672-4688. Next sale: January 30.

Odd vegetables at Farm Show

HARRISBURG — Some unusual Pennsylvania grown vegetables are on display at the 64th Farm Show.

Black winter radish is about the size of a baseball and is charcoal in color. It peels to white like the small red radish we know so well, but according to Penn State Extension horticulturist Pete Ferretti, it's drier and denser. It can withstand very cold temperatures and can be held in the soil most of the winter, hence the name. Ferretti recommends it raw with dips as well as in salads.

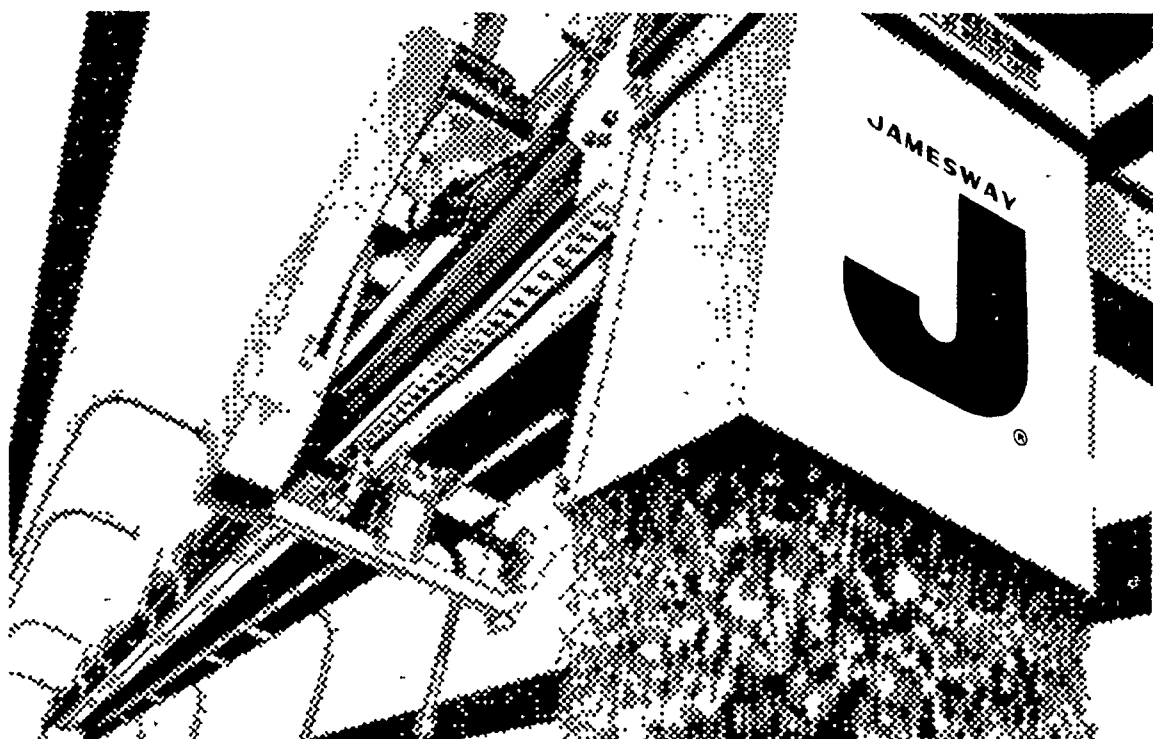
Celeriac, an ancestor of the familiar pale green stalk celery, is a brownish, bulbous looking vegetable. Once peeled, it's smooth,

flavorful, and more aromatic than celery — and it has no strings. It's easier to grow too, notes Ferretti.

The little diced "potatoes" you notice in some canned soups are actually celeriac. It gives a nice celery flavor and retains its texture. Celeriac is also good raw, with a dip or sliced into salads.

Leeks, which look like giant scallions, are occasionally available in supermarkets. Those shown at the Farm Show are huge and beautiful, and are drier and milder than the yellow onion. Leeks give a superb flavor to soups and are basic to the famous cold soup, vichyssoise.

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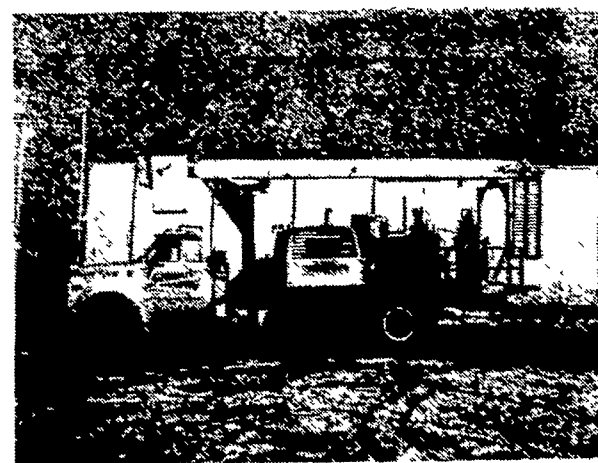
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