

Sheep assoc. pin-points problems at Farm Show

HARRISBURG — A spokesman for the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association recently remarked that sheep showmen were planning to voice some constructive criticism to the Pennsylvania Farm Show Commission concerning next year's show.

At a meeting held on Sunday, January 13, a group from the association met to review problems they encountered at the 1980 Farm Show.

One of the major areas of concern involved the space shortage in the current Farm Show complex. The sheep showmen voiced their displeasure with the scheduling of both swine and sheep shows at the same time in the small arena. "It was like a three-ring circus," the spokesman said.

Show schedules were also said to be a problem for the junior exhibitors who wanted to show more than one species at Farm Show. All of the Junior shows were scheduled on one day at this year's show, with sheep, swine, and beef classes overlapping.

If a junior exhibitor had entries in two or three classes, a choice had to be made on which one to show in. Then the 4-H'er or FFA'er had to find someone else in the club to show their other entry, noted the spokesman.

The association spokesman also pointed out that health papers were another area that could be improved. At this year's show, he said, a health certificate was required for each individual entry from each farm. This requirement, he said, is excessive when a certificate representing the flock would be sufficient.

And, the current weight limits for the market lambs will be brought to the Commission's attention, according to the sheep representative. The association is planning to suggest the present maximum weight limit be raised to 135 pounds. The spokesman pointed out that some breeds of sheep, like Suffolks, do not finish out at the present cut-off of 125 pounds.

Along with these problems, the Pennsylvania

December milk up

HARRISBURG — Milk production in Pennsylvania during December 1979 totaled 664 million pounds, up four percent from a year earlier according to the Crop Reporting Service.

The number of milk cows in the Commonwealth during December was 688,000 head, down 15,000 head from a year ago. Milk production per cow averaged 965 pounds in December, up 24 pounds from a year ago.

United States milk production during December totaled 10.0 billion pounds, two percent above December 1978. Milk production per cow averaged 930 pounds, 28 pounds more than a year earlier and 35 pounds above December 1977.

Milk cows on farms totaled 10.8 million head, off one percent from last year.

Sheep and Wool Growers Association will be calling to the Farm Show Commission's attention this year's major blooper.

The show schedule called for sale of breeding swine on Wednesday afternoon. However, the buyers of these

hogs did not move them out of the barns after the sale which tied up a lot of pens in the sheep and hog area.

A major traffic jam resulted because the junior swine exhibitors were waiting, with their hogs in the parking lot, to move into

the barns to prepare for their Thursday contest. As a result, there were hogs next to sheep, confusion, and a number of unhappy exhibitors.

The associations' spokesman said they sent a letter of their recom-

mendations and criticisms to Farm Show Director, Hugh Coffman. They called for more space and better facilities, more organization of show schedules and sales, splitting the junior shows so that the exhibitors can show their own animals in the

various species classes, revised health certificate requirements, and the increased market weight for lambs.

They are planning to meet with the Commission when the next meeting is held in March. SM.

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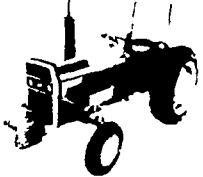
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