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## Bull performance test deadline February 29

HARRISBURG — State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell Friday reminded farmers that February 29 is the last day to enter their bulls in the Summer Bull Test at the Agriculture Department's Meat Evaluation Center in State College.

"The Summer Bull Test has been designed for calves born off-season, between April 16, 1979 and October 1, 1979. It enables farmers to evaluate the performance of their off season calves, with the highest performing bull eligible for the 1981 performance testing program. Last summer's top 60 tested bulls will be sold on March 28, 1980 at the Performance Tested Bull Sale.

"Too many breeders fail to realize the great influence a bull actually has on the production traits of a cow herd," he said.

Approximately 87 percent of the genetic makeup of a calf is determined by the last three generations of bulls used. On the average, a bull will leave about 25 more offspring in the herd than will the average female.

Factors which will be evaluated during the Summer Bull Test include, average daily rate of gain, feed conversion efficiency, growth rate, structural soundness, condition,

muscularity and carcass merit.

Performance testing provides a common testing ground for purebred and commercial breeders to compare the performance of their stock under similar conditions.

The performance testing program is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with The Pennsylvania State University and the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association.

For further information and entry details, contact Robert Kimble, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Meat Evaluation Center, 651 Fox Hollow Road, State College, PA 16801; phone, 814/238-2527.

## Insure adequate selenium for dry cows

GETTYSBURG - Usual levels of supplementary selenium in dairy feeds for milk cows may not be sufficient to maintain good levels of selenium in dry cows.

Thus they may be more susceptible to metabolic and infectious disorders as well as infertility problems. It only takes about 3 weeks to depress selenium levels in the body, says Adams County Agent Thomas Piper.

Because dry cows receive considerably less grain mixture than milking animals, higher levels of supplementary selenium must be included in this feed to balance the forage ration.

Finished feeds for milk cows may contain 0.15-0.20 ppm selenium while dry cow feeds need 0.4-0.5 ppm in low selenium areas such as Pennsylvania.

If a special dry cow feed is not used, an alternative would be use of an injectable selenium and vitamin E preparation.

About five ml of MuSe may be administered under veterinary prescription when cows are put dry. Give another five ml about 3-4 weeks prior to expected

calving if no oral selenium supplement is given to dry cows.

When dry cows are in a good state of selenium nutrition, calves born will have a good level of selenium at birth. This helps to keep calf problems at a minimum.

All young stock also should receive supplemental selenium.

If a farmer wishes to determine the selenium status of his cattle, composite samples of whole blood from various groups may be brought to the Large Animal Diagnostic Laboratory at Penn State for analysis.

GSHPx, an indirect test for selenium status, may be obtained at a modest charge, Piper said.

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**Thursday, February 28th**

9 30 A M - Draft Horse and Mule Show  
Large Arena

11 30 A M - Tack Sale - Small Arena

1 00 P M - Draft Horse and Mule Sale  
Small Arena

1 00 P M - 5,500 lb Class Stock Tractor Pull  
Large Arena

6 00 P M - 13,000 lb Class Stock Tractor Pull  
Large Arena

**Friday, February 29th**

9 00 A M - First Pa All Breed Swine Show  
Small Arena

1 00 P M - Lightweight Class Horse Pull  
(3200 lbs & less) - Large Arena

7 00 P M - Heavyweight Class Horse Pull  
(over 3,200 lbs) - Large Arena

\*4-H Safe Driving Demonstration

\*Time and location to be determined

**Saturday, March 1st**

10 00 A M - 9,000 lbs Class Stock Tractor Pull  
Large Arena

11 00 A M - First Pa All Breed Swine Sale  
Small Arena

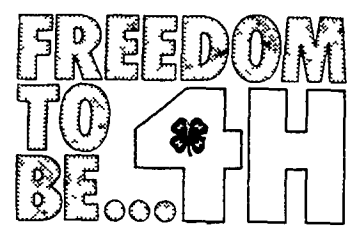
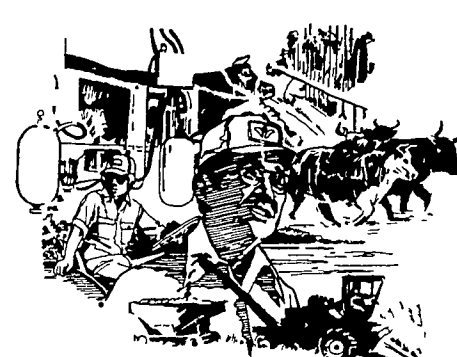
\*1 30 P M - Young Farmers Expo Winter  
Volleyball Tournament -  
Large Arena

6 00 P M - Tractor Pull Finals - (three classes)  
Large Arena

**Tickets Required**

Adults	\$3 00	Advance	\$2 00
Children	\$2 00	Advance	\$1 00 (12 & under)

For Further Information Contact The State Farm Show Office — 717-787-5373



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