

# U. of Maryland holds Wye bull sale

COLLEGE PARK — Known as a tough man to please, Gordon M. Cairns was wearing a broad smile on his face shortly after the final bull was sold at the April 19 auction of performance-tested bulls from the famous Wye Angus herd. The bustling, 2-hour, 15-minute sale was held at the

historic Wye Plantation, Queen Anne's County, Md. "We're happy with the way things went," said Cairns, supervisor of the Wye Angus program for the University of Maryland and dean emeritus of the College of Agriculture at the university's College Park campus. "Under the market

circumstances, we came through in good shape."

By market circumstances Cairns meant the overall slowdown in the cattle industry brought about, in part, by high interest rates.

Feeder calf prices have been cut by 30 percent in the last month, he said, "and that has an impact upon people's thinking so they do not want to spend the money."

Top calves at the auction did exceedingly well. All told, the 48 bulls offered at the auction sold of a total of \$125,725, an average of \$2,619 per head.

Top price went for Florey of Wye, which sold for \$15,000 to Greenbrier Farm of Carlisle, Kentucky. Sired by Lucan of Wye, Florey had an adjusted 365-weight of 1,196 pounds.

Another Lucan son, Buchan of Wye, sold for \$10,000 to Blaine and Theron Horrocks of Neola, Utah. Sons of four other Wye sires sold for \$5,000 or more in the sale.

This was the second sale of Wye Angus bulls since 1978, when the herd was donated to the university of Arthur A. Houghton, Jr., owner of the Wye Plantation and a respected cattle breeder. The first sale was held last year.

The herd, which now numbers about 400 bulls, was begun in 1938 with 18 heifers and a bull calf on the 1,400-acre plantation, located on the bay side of Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Superior performance and weight gain are charac-

teristic of Wye Angus bulls and have made them extremely attractive to cattle buyers, noted Ronald Nelson, head of the Department of Animals Husbandry at Michigan State University and chairman of the Wye Angus Herd Advisory Panel.

Made up of research leaders, cattle breeders, association representatives and commercial interests, the panel serves in an advisory capacity to the director of the Maryland

Agricultural Experiment Station on potential research studies that will advance the knowledge of beef cattle production and performance.

"Angus cattle are known for being a good mother breed," Nelson said. "They're good milk cows, they're good mothers, they're highly fertile and are very good in crossbreeding programs to bring in the mothering side."

In all, buyers came to the sale from 16 states and Ontario, Canada.

## USDA announces DES regulations

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carol Tucker Foreman said regulations have been published that spell out what cattle feeders suspected of violating the ban on diethylstilbestrol must do before they can market their cattle for human food.

The regulations follow an announcement by USDA and the Food and Drug Administration April 4 that an FDA investigation had revealed widespread disregard for FDA's November 1 ban on DES.

As of April 17, Foreman said, FDA had identified 140 feedlots which may have illegally implanted DES pellets in cattle as a growth promotant.

"USDA will require sworn statements from cattle feeders suspected of violating the DES ban," Foreman said. "Feeders can market the muscle tissue from their cattle 41 days after a USDA accredited veterinarian certifies the DES implant has been surgically removed."

If the livers and kidneys are to be sold for food, the

animal must be held for 61 days after the implant is removed, Foreman said, since those organs retain residues of the drug longer than muscle tissue.

Once FDA suspects a feeder has violated the ban, that agency notifies USDA's Food Safety and Quality Service, the agency responsible for ensuring the safety of the meat and poultry supply.

To assure that slaughtered cattle are free from DES, Foreman said, FSQS is reinstating its national sampling program in which randomly selected tissues are tested for DES. The

agency suspended the program in January to focus its resources on the serious contamination of food products with polychlorinated biphenyls in the Western United States.

"Anyone violating these requirements may face severe legal penalties," Foreman said.

The policy was published in the April 22 Federal Register, available in local libraries. The rules were published without opportunity for public comment because of the need for prompt action to prevent adulterated meat from entering food channels.

## Tentative opening dates set

HARRISBURG — Tentative opening dates for 1981 hunting seasons have been established by the Pennsylvania Game Commission for the convenience of those who wish to plan ahead.

The archery deer season in 1981 is tentatively scheduled to open on Saturday, October 3.

The tentative opening date for the early small game

season is Saturday, October 17, and the general small game season tentative opening date is Saturday, October 31.

The antlered deer season will open on November 30, 1981.

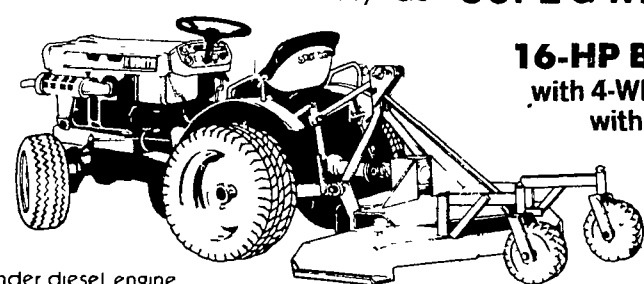
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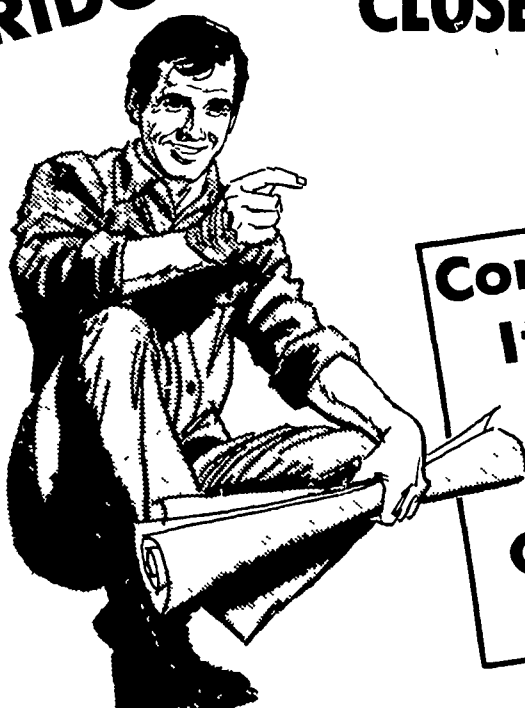
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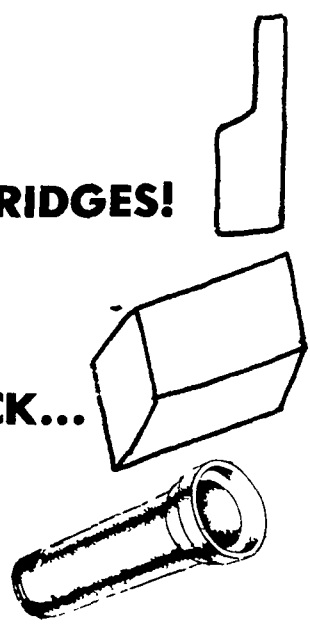
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