

Farm Show's Jr. steers?

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right way to go right now," he said.

Frank Darcey, president of the Polled Hereford Association voiced his concern, stating the Angus and Hereford steers "can't compete with zoo animals."

"I support keeping a lid on the weights. Let's give the meat buyers what they want — an 1150 pound steer," he said.

"It's a cardinal sin to teach our youth to raise something the market place doesn't want. University people are guilty of this to some extent," he continued. "Lifting the weight limit is

against economics and what the cattle industry wants."

According to Dobrosky, the problem with Farm Show is it's held at the wrong time of year. He echoed Burdette's sentiments when he said, "The kids can't hold these steers and have them grade choice. Really they should be marketed in August through October after the county Roundups."

Bob Kimble, manager of the Meat Animal Evaluation Center at Penn State agreed that Farm Show is an off-season for lambs and cattle. He said the weight ranges for these youth project animals should be kept

within reason to what the industry is doing.

"Angus and Hereford crosses finish out at a lighter weight and can grade choice at around 900 pounds. But these exotic crosses might only grade choice at 1200 pounds, 1300 1400 pounds — and that's under feedlot conditions with good conditioning and management. It means these steers are not suddenly held back."

"The grand champion Farm Show steer is not a good comparison of what a breed can do necessarily," Kimble said.

Kimble conceded he had no solution to the problem of getting these larger framed steers to grade choice at the present weight limit.

"You change the shape of an animal, you change the composition. With more and more consumers using hamburger, having volume of red meat is desirable. A steers not all steak."

Kimble went on to say club kids have no alternative but to buy a calf at the fall feeder sales and watch its progress.

There is no way of knowing how fast an animal will grow. Some can be pushed hard," he said.

An interesting point made by Kimble is the packer makes the most money on the higher cutting carcass.

"The packer says he wants a steer to grade, and yet he won't pay the higher price for a lower yielding steer."

"The point is, all these steers can be used for something," Kimble concluded.

And, all the 1981 Farm Show steers were sold. This year's prices paid for the champions dropped, however, (probably a reflection of market trends rather than published opinions).

The judge of the steer show, Doug Parrett of Illinois, said he had read the Pennsylvania Farmer story prior to judging the show.

Parrett said he purposely checked the market reports last Tuesday before the show and noted, "The difference between steers grading low choice and high good was about \$2. The difference between a leaner yield grade 3 and a waster yield grade 4 steer was about \$15."

"The packers don't care about feedlot efficiency. They just care about what little bit of the beef industry they're involved in."

"Packers say they want lean meat that grades. There's a gray area on what makes quality grades. For every lean steer that doesn't grade choice, I can show you a fat one that doesn't grade choice either."

"Consumer's don't understand quality grading, and what does it matter since half the meat that's marketed is ground?"

Parrett, too, said the Farm Show steers are not fed under proper feedlot conditions in order to grade choice and that the kids have to hold the steers back.

When placing the class of heavyweights, Parrett explained he couldn't criticize the top steers because they grew fast and got too heavy. (What of the three steers that were disqualified for being overweight?) It was the first place heavyweight, shown by Lancaster's Ernie Frey, that went on to be tagged reserve grand champ.

When asked about his steer's feeding program, young Frey stated, "I coasted him to Roundup. After Roundup I pushed him with silage, corn, oats and 14 percent protein supplement."

According to Greg Snyder, Lehigh 4-H leader, feed salesman and Polled

Cecil lists DHIA top 10

NORTH EAST, Md — Following are the top ten dairy herds for Cecil County which are on test with the Cecil County Dairy Herd Improvement Association. This information is compiled from records received in the Cecil County Extension Office during this period.

Killdee Farms	33	1 79	3 90	45 9
Cherry Valley Farm	96	1 75	3 74	46 8
J B Carson, Jr	51	1 65	4 58	36 0
Fred Schrader	76	1 65	3 85	42 7
Pioneer Valley Fm	141	1 56	3 59	43 5
Carl Stafford & Son	74	1 54	3 65	42 0
T Howard England	55	1 46	5 05	29 0
B & C Yurkanin	25	1 46	4 51	32 4
R D Dempsey	74	1 46	3 67	39 7
Mt Ararat Farm	111	1 45	4 97	29 2

Vegetable growers to meet Tuesday

LANCASTER — A day-long meeting for vegetable growers in Lancaster and York counties will be held at the Farm and Home Center on Tuesday beginning at 10 a.m.

The session will open with a movie on pesticides, according to Extension agent Arnold Lueck.

Hereford breeder, "showing defeats the purpose of teaching a 4-H'er how to feed a steer."

In a similar train of thought, Tony Dobrosky said, "The 4-H program is to help develop a youngster's responsibility. We can't forget the kid and concentrate only on the project. The project should only be the crutch to get the 4-H'er to a goal."

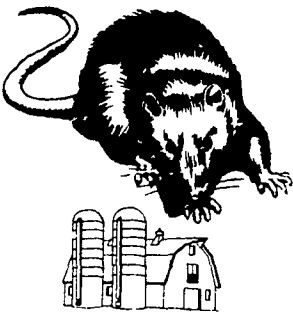
Dobrosky urged cattlemen, club members, parents and leaders to let their opinions on the Farm Show steer, lamb, and hog weight limits be known to him or other Farm Show Youth Committee members before March 5 when the resolutions will go before the Farm Show Commission.

The remainder of the morning program includes a session on soil management to improve vegetable production at 10 15 a.m. by Peter Ferretti, Extension vegetable specialist, insect control with emphasis on sweet corn and cole crops at 10:45 a.m. by Robert Tetrault, Extension entomology specialist, observations on a cauliflower variety test at 11 15 a.m. by David Miller, York County grower, and tomato disease control costs at 11 30 a.m. by Alan McNab, Extension plant pathology specialist.

After a luncheon break, the program resumes at 1 p.m. with a discussion of new vegetable varieties by Ferretti; melon disease control and costs at 1 30 p.m. by MacNab and a closing panel discussion on weed control beginning at 2 p.m. by John Fitz and Ronald Markey, York County growers, and Ferretti.

The session is scheduled to end at 2 30 p.m.

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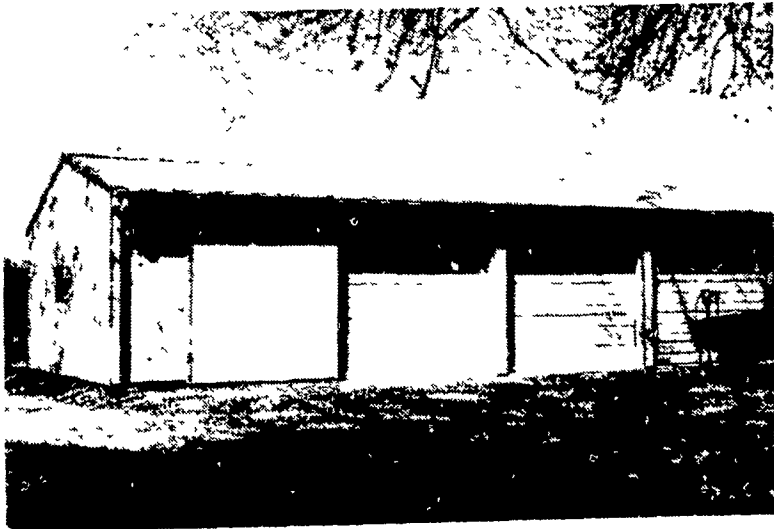
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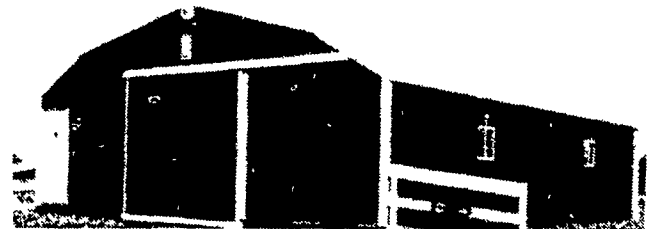
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