

# Steer grades good

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Carlos Leffler of Richland But one week prior to the Angus x Chianina steer's slaughter date, it, along with 10 other Farm Show steers, went on a weight-gaining program prescribed by Glenn Eberly, cattle manager of Baum's Bologna, Elizabethtown. Eberly said the steers were fed ground ear corn and free choice hay for a full week before slaughter. He estimated the reserve champ's weight to have topped the 1400 pound mark in that time, up from his 1350 pound weigh-in at Farm Show.

The steer's story on the rail was told by a federal

grader who rolled the carcass choice. According to Eberly, it was a low choice, although the grader did not break down the grades between high, medium and low.

There was no question that the reserve grand champ was a Yield Grade 1 with a rib eye that measured 16.6 square inches with only 15 fat. It dressed 66.07 percent.

Eberly confessed that the quality grade of choice was a close decision. Feeding the steer for that week gave it enough to get over the top — otherwise, it might not have graded, he said.

"It's a rare steer with that amount of back fat that would grade choice," Eberly

proclaimed. He admitted that another federal grader might not have felt the steer had the marbling needed to quality grade choice.

Eberly, who has an eye for cattle after judging them while a student at Penn State and now after three years with Baums, said he "can't see how anyone could put a steer up on top of the class that has a 15 back fat and expect it to grade."

Expressing his feelings on the 4-H steer program, Eberly stated, "There's a definite problem. Those 4-H steers aren't what they should be. They should be reflecting the industry more. These larger cattle have to be frowned on because they're not acceptable for the meat industry."

"We buy 150 to 200 head of choice carcass cattle every week. Once they get over 1300 to 1350 pounds, I start discounting them. Those steers are too large for the carcass trade."

Reading from the January 29, 1981 National Provisioner Mid-Day Beef Wire printout, Eberly pointed out the difference between carcasses weighing 500 to 700 pounds and those weighing 800 to 900 pounds was 3 cents a pound.

"Choice Y-3's weighing 500 to 600 pounds and 600 to 700 pounds are bringing 96 cents, where the same grade carcass weighing 800 to 900 pounds is only bringing 93 cents. All weights of good carcasses are bringing 92 to 93 cents."

Eberly stated the main problem with the bigger carcasses is the size of the retail cuts of beef.

"When a customer orders a three-quarter inch steak and it weighs over a pound, that's just too big," he said.

The 4-H'er who raises the heavier steers stands to make more money because of more pounds to market, Eberly explained, but in the meat industry these same steers would be discounted.

"The best thing that could happen is for judges to start picking the lighter, smaller cattle. They'll probably bring more money because the buyers will have a lesser total dollar investment," Eberly concluded.

# Soybean growers to meet February 4 in Maryland

SALISBURY, Md. — The 1981 Delmarva Corn-Soybean Technology Conference on February 4 offers soybean producers a special finale. Immediately following the conference conclusion at 3:30 p.m., the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association will hold its annual meeting.

Both meetings will be at the Wicomico County Civic Center, Salisbury.

The Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association annual meeting gives members of the association opportunity to set policy and elect officers for the coming year — and more.

Soybean growers will hear updates from the commodity organization which gives soybeans and soybean growers its full attention.

Farmer leaders will show how the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association and growers in 23 other state associations are building overseas markets for the beans they produce, promoting research to reduce production costs and working to keep a free world market for soybeans.

It's not just a business meeting — it's a special report on what's being done to further profitable soybean production.

There will be a progress report on the grower investment checkoff programs in Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware.

Preston Ware of Salem, New Jersey, who represents the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association as an American Soybean Association national director will detail the national and international programs of the American Soybean Association.

For more information please contact Jerry Kennedy, American Soybean Association 301/742-9500.

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# WHAT'S NEW

## Tractor cabs announced

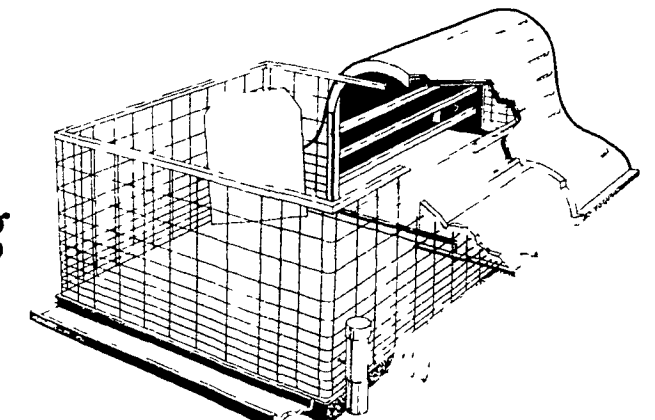
DES MOINES, IA — A new line of Weatherguard cabs, designed to use engine heat to increase operator comfort, is now available from Massey-Ferguson.

These Weatherguards are built to fit MF 205, MF 210 and MF 220 two- and four-wheel-drive tractors. The Weatherguards are constructed of special vinyl material, reinforced with strong nylon fabric for long life. Two doors allow operator access from both sides of the tractor. Fasteners are made of durable brass, and overall design provides for quick and easy installation.

Convenience features include a tinted windshield for reduced glare and eyestrain. This three-sided windshield also provides excellent operator visibility.



A new line of Weatherguard cabs is now available from Massey-Ferguson.



## New farrowing hut

Miraco Mfg., a division of Miracle Recreation Equipment Company, of Grinnell, Iowa, has recently announced the availability of MIRAHUT, a "Free Stall" type of farrowing for increasing swine production efficiency and longevity. The Mirahut system reduces stress, provides easy cleaning for disease control, reduces scours, is energy efficient, has year around application, and requires no building permit or property taxes. For more information and a free brochure, call or write: MIRACO MFG., Box 275, Grinnell, Iowa 50112 — 515/236-7536.

## Pseudorabies remains

(Continued from Page A1)

Agent Max Smith have issued recent warnings not to run cattle and hogs together and to practice good sanitation in the continuing fight against the highly infectious disease.

To date, the continuing investigation by the Bureau of Animal Industry has not pinpointed the exact source of the introduction of the pseudorabies into the state.

But the investigation has

revealed that there wasn't a single source of introduction from out-of-state, but rather several are suspected.

The first case of pseudorabies was suspected last January in the southeastern section of the state and by April the first two definite cases had been confirmed by diagnosis.

Over the past year, the disease has been largely confined to the southeastern part of the state.

**ANNUAL  
CONSIGNMENT SALE  
of Farm Machinery & Tools**  
Location: The Laurel Auction Market,  
on Rt. 13 and Rt. 9 at Laurel, Del., beside  
the Laurel Grain Cooperative.  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5**  
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Consignments will be taken FEB. 2, FEB. 3, FEB. 4, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before the sale. They will be taken during the hours of 9:00 A.M. until 4:30 P.M.

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