

NCA recommends modern beef grading

PHOENIX, Ariz. — The National Cattlemen's Assn. recently recommended a beef grading change aimed at production and marketing of leaner, more nutritious beef.

NCA members adopted a resolution calling for a grading system revision that would encourage the production of beef with less trimmable fat and with a greater ratio of lean to fat.

The action was taken at NCA's annual business meeting, held during the association convention in Phoenix. The recommendation will be presented to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which is responsible for meat grade standards.

NCA noted there is a "need to respond to consumer demand for more lean beef. In order to meet this increased demand, our producers need to be encouraged to produce a product with a higher percentage of lean."

Gene Schroeder, Palisade, Nebraska, chairman of the NCA Grading Committee, said that recent meat research as well as experience in the market place has shown the need to improve and modernize the grading system.

"For one thing," he said, research has indicated that, in determining eating quality, marbling is less important than previously believed. We are recommending a change in the choice grade criteria that would make the system more objective. Also, the proposed change would tend to reduce the amount of over-feeding which often occurs now in efforts to achieve the required degree of marbling.

Under our proposal, beef would

continue to qualify for the choice grade if it had a 'small' or 'modest' amount of marbling. In addition, a 'slight' amount of marbling would qualify beef as choice provided there was a minimum of 0.3 inch of fat cover over the 12th rib.

"We are adding that provision because of research showing that 0.3 inch of fat cover reflects sufficient grain feeding time to assure desired palatability and tenderness. With today's cattle and

feeding programs, marbling alone is not an adequate indicator of eating quality. We concluded that it was necessary to modernize the system to reflect this situation.

"Our proposal means eating quality equal or superior to that under the present standards. At the same time, we can help assure a greater proportion of lean meat, as opposed to fat, in the available beef supply."

Schroeder said the proposed change should result in some shortening of the average feeding time required to produce choice beef. This, he said, will result in less production of beef carcasses with excess, trimmable fat. And beef available to the public should better meet the demand for lean but tender and tasty beef.

"We consider the proposal to be in the best interest of both the

consuming public and the beef cattle industry," Schroeder said.

"Current trends in the market place indicate that we provide the public with a leaner product. Trends in the cost of energy dictate that we not waste fossil fuel and feed energy now being used to produce fat which is costly to both the producer and the consumer and which is not desired by the consumer."

Lamb task force seeks marketing solutions

LANCASTER — In a determined effort to solve some of the more pressing problems in the marketing of lamb, the sheep industry has organized a special lamb marketing task force which will conduct its first meeting on Thursday February 26, at the headquarters of the American Sheep Producers Council in Denver.

The 12-member task force is expected to delve into the recent market decline in lamb prices which proved disastrous to some sheep producers, and to seek means to avoid the serious and volatile fluctuations in live lamb prices.

Bill Balden of Danville, KY, temporary chairman of the task force, said the industry can't afford such serious rises and declines in live prices.

He pointed out that lamb prices fell from approximately 73 cents to about 43 cents in about eight weeks time.

Although there are contributing factors to this, such as the drought and a temporary abundance of

lamb on the market, there was no reason for it to decline to that extent.

The new task force, which Balden said is not conducting a witch hunt, is firmly resolved to alleviate some of the problems which have plagued lamb marketing for years.

He added that lamb is not the only livestock which has suffered seriously in the past six months, since beef and pork also are far from profitable. It is just the fact, he said, that it has become intolerable for lamb producers to withstand the severe ups and downs.

Also intended to help is a lamb marketing seminar slated for March 23 to 26 at Wichita, KS.

Represented on the special task force will be two members from the National Wool Growers Association, headquartered in Salt Lake City, two from the American Sheep Producers Council in Denver, two from the National Lamb Feeders Association, two representing the meat packing industry, one retailer, two

wholesalers and one in the food service business.

Balden said, "If there are things the lamb producers are doing which are basically wrong, then we want to correct those mistakes, and must do so immediately if we are going to survive in this inflationary era of skyrocketing costs."

"We appreciate the assistance of all segments of the industry in helping us to market our products

better and provide the consumer with a high quality product and consistent supply. We can't take our food supply for granted any longer," Balden said.

He referred to the fact that sheep numbers have shown a two percent increase as of January 1 of this year, which is the second year in a row that sheep numbers have shown an increase in this country and the first time in more than 20 years that this has occurred.

Project book winners reported

LEBANON — Various members of the Eastern Lebanon County FFA participated in the project book contest held at the Lebanon County Vo-tech School.

The contest was judged by the county vo-ag teachers and Harvey A. Smith, area consultant for Lebanon County. It is held each year to determine which FFA students completed the best books through accuracy, completeness and neatness.

The Eastern Lebanon County FFA placings were as follows: Work Experience - Off-farm (0-500 hours), Donna Rabold, 1st place, gold, blue ribbon and Dorothy Tice, 2nd place, silver, red ribbon; Work Experience - Off-farm (500-1000 hours), Irene Brown, 1st place, gold, blue ribbon and Jonathan Arnold, 2nd place, silver, blue ribbon; Work Experience - Off-farm (1001-1500 hours), Joel Fahnestock, 1st place, gold, blue ribbon.

Work Experience - On-farm (501-1000 hours), David Prince, 1st place, gold, blue ribbon; Work Experience - On-farm (1001-1500 hours), Glenn Wenger, 1st place, gold, blue ribbon, Ken Erb, 2nd place, gold, blue ribbon, James

Bennetch, 3rd place, silver, red ribbon, and Robert Hogeland, 4th place, silver, red ribbon; Work Experience - On-Farm (over 1501 hours), Ed Kegerreis, 1st place, gold, blue ribbon, and John Kline, 2nd place, silver, blue ribbon.

Two Enterprises - Donna Rabold, 4th place, red ribbon, William Hogeland, 5th place, white ribbon, and Randy Hartranft, 7th place; Three Enterprises - Diane Hackman, 4th place, red ribbon, and Lisa Gettle, 6th place, white ribbon; Market Hogs - Ed Kegerreis, 1st place, gold, blue ribbon, Norma Kurtz, 5th place, red ribbon, and Tom Louwerse, 6th place, white ribbon, Potatoes - Robert Hogeland, 1st place, gold, blue ribbon.

Dairy Herd - John Kline, 1st place, gold, blue ribbon, and Patti Heilinger, 2nd place, silver, blue ribbon; Trapping - Tim Fehr, 5th place, white ribbon, Poultry (Capon) Darlene Kurtz, 1st place, gold, blue ribbon.

Booth Insulation Company

"THERMAL INSULATION SPECIALISTS"

Residential • Agricultural • Commercial • Industrial
SPRAY ON — BLOWN IN — FOAMED IN PLACE

1167 Snapper Dam Road
 Landisville, PA 17538

Call Collect
717-898-2760

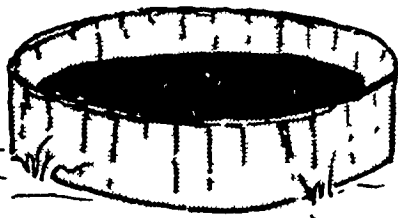
MEMO

**HAY,
 STRAW &
 EAR CORN
 SALE**

**EVERY
 MONDAY
 At 11 A.M.**

**NEW HOLLAND SALES
 STABLES, INC**
 Phone 717 354-4341
 Lloyd H Kreider,
 Auctioneer

CONCRETE CIRCULAR



MANURE STORAGE TANKS

Built To Your Specifications & Capacity
 • Circular • Flat Side to a Building

Above Ground, Below
 Ground (Gravity Flow-No
 Pumping) or Combination

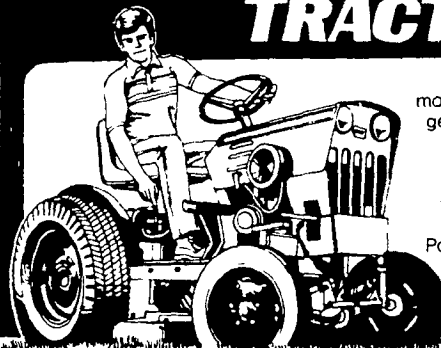
ASCS APPROVED

COMPARE!
 For Structure And Price
 You Have Everything
 To Gain.

CALL KEN GROFF at
STRASBURG POURED WALLS

R.D. #2, Box 8, Strasburg, PA 17579
 Ph: 717-687-6668 Call Anytime - Evenings Preferred

SAVE \$520* NOW GET A 48" MOWER FREE WITH A POWER KING TRACTOR



Now when you buy the toughest most versatile tractor in town you also get a free 48" rotary mower! Just buy any new Power King tractor and the mower is yours at no extra cost. Power King is a great big lawn tamer and with its powerful all-gear drive system and broad versatility Power King handles all kinds of tough jobs around your place. Come get a great deal on a great tractor — and a free mower too!

But don't delay the offer is for a limited time only!

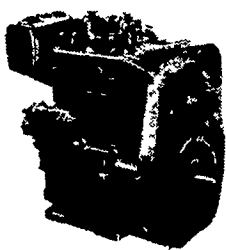
POWER KING

Good's Lawn & Garden Center
 RT. 322 - 1 MI. E. OF BLUE BALL PH. 717-354-0076
 OPEN DAILY 9 to 9; TUE & SAT 9 to 5

BARN PAINTING Call Us Now For Free Estimates

PHARES S HURST
 RD 1 Box 420
 Narvon, Pa 17555
 215-445 6186

BRUNING Paint
 Company



Let Us Know
 Your Service Problems
**HOOVER
 DIESEL SERVICE**
 PH 717-656 6133
 2998 West Newport Rd
 Ronks, PA 17572