

# Youth Committee says F.S. steer weights stick

HARRISBURG — There will be no changes recommended to the Farm Show Commission in the weight limits of the Farm Show Junior Beef Steer Show, according to a spokesman for the Youth Committee.

The decision to recommend no changes came last month during a meeting at the Farm Show office. The Farm Show Youth Committee consists of three ag teachers, three Extension agents, and four Penn State staffers from the College of Agriculture.

Despite the controversy at the 1981 Farm Show, revolving around exotic crossbreds not grading at the maximum weight limit of 1350 pounds, the committee opted to stick with the standard cutoff weight. A suggestion to lower the minimum weight to 900 pounds also died in committee.

Other recommendations the Youth Committee has forwarded to the Farm Show Commission include banning the use of artificial fins, fake tail pieces, when fitting and grooming steers for the show

ring. Other unethical fitting practices need to be spelled out, noted the spokesman. He said shrinking steers the week or so before the show might be considered unethical in future years. However, he conceded, enforcing these rules would prove hectic.

The Youth Committee also recommended changing the quota on lambs and hogs.

"Instead of one kid bringing two lambs or two hogs, the counties would be allowed to bring a total of

four animals with four kids showing," he explained.

Breeding classes for Simmental and Chianina heifers were recommended by the Committee, also.

And, they recommended a premium be given for fitting and showmanship winners instead of the current 'nothing', and that the pseudorabies rules be more visible in the premium list and catalog.

One recommendation that was aired but rejected was to accept heifer entries as a group, with

heifer ages between January and May. Then, after all the entries were in, the classes would be divided equally with at least five animals per class. As it stands now, classes are split at set ages, which leads to few animals in the January-February class and lots in the March-April class.

The final decision on the Youth Committee recommendations rests with the Farm Show Commissioners.

## Comments from U. of Wisconsin

### Jr. Livestock shows, are they worth it?

"Before we discuss the merits of a junior livestock show, maybe we better define it.

First of all, it's not a junior livestock show, it's a youngster show where livestock are used as props or visual aids. About 90 percent of the people who come to a livestock show come to see their youngster or someone else's youngster show themselves, and they have to have an animal in order to get into the ring.

"Junior livestock projects should never be sold as a money-making project. It is a teaching project, and should be sold as such. What does it teach?

✓ "It teaches youngsters to get along with people. Showing animals, winning, getting beat, and so forth, helps youngsters to get along with others.

✓ "Livestock feeding teaches responsibility. It is the feeder's responsibility to hear the alarm clock and obey it. If they learn nothing more than that, feeding is worthwhile.

✓ "Junior projects teach youngsters to attend to details. In feeding, and especially through life, it is often the little things that count. The person who goes the extra mile gets the job done.

✓ "Decision making is the most painful task that a teenager has. The good

animals shown this year didn't just happen to be here. Somebody planned it that way.

✓ "Feeding teaches youngsters to plan. Without a good planning job, we are sunk.

✓ "Somewhere along the line, we hope our young feeders will learn a little about livestock production.

"We don't expect every youngster who feeds a calf, lamb, or hog to become a beef cattleman, sheepman or hogman; neither do we expect all little league baseball players to play for the major leagues.

"Feeding is a family project. It don't mean the whole family does the work. I mean the

family must enjoy it. Half the value of the project is lost if the parents don't attend the show.

"I think sometimes we are prone to look at investments through the wrong end of a telescope. For example, we don't buy a car, we buy transportation; we don't buy a TV set, we buy entertainment; we don't miss a day at school, we lose a day of education.

By the same token, we don't invest toward a premium list or buy some youngster's calf or pig in a premium sale. Rather than that, we invest in the future of some boy or girl who in turn will help to keep America the greatest country on earth."



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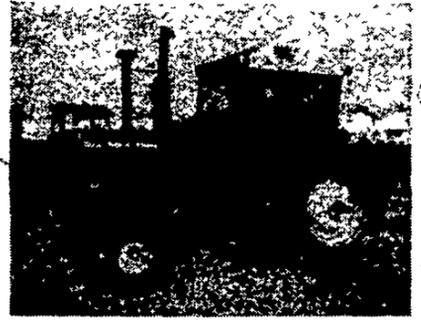
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