

Guernsey breeders gather in San Francisco

PETERBOROUGH, N.H. — Over 400 enthusiastic Guernsey breeders and supporters gathered in San Francisco, California, recently for the 104th meeting of the American Guernsey Cattle Club.

The convention theme, focusing entirely on management and improved genetics, provided a different twist from typical breed conventions. Billed as "This Business of Guernseys", the four day event included embryo transplant demonstrations, calf raising forums, genetics seminars, and young sire meetings.

The convention followed on the footsteps of the announcement that the breed had a 410-lb.-milk-average increase during the first quarter of 1981, the largest jump in its 105 year history.

During his address to the membership, AGCC President Russell Wirt stated: "The future of our breed lies with breeders and their determination to breed truly superior animals that can contribute to commercial dairymen's breeding programs."

"The future can be anything we want it to be. With proper programs we are now in the position to scare the competition," he claimed.

Other highlights of the meeting

included the crowning of 18-year-old Karen Larson, Claremont, Minnesota, as the 1981 National Guernsey Queen. Runners-up included Lisa Brubaker, Harrisonburg, Virginia, and Vanitta Waterman, Williamstown, Missouri. There were sixteen states represented in the contest.

The 1981 National Heifer Sale, with 70 percent open heifers, averaged \$2,446. Top of the sale was Western Glow T H Tiffany, selling for \$5,000 to Chester and

Barbara Williams, Waukesha, Wisconsin. She was consigned by the Taffy Syndicate, Bow, Washington.

The 1981 National Convention Sale averaged \$2,538. Top of this

sale was Golden Meadows Zenith Flirt, a national milk and fat class leader, that sold for \$7,500 to Phil Fanelli, Hilmar, California. She was consigned by Barry Dias, Hilmar, California.

Farm Talk

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No doubt that North Carolina study is not the last word on farm produced fuel, but it provides a lot more information than most farmers have at hand on this subject.

There is tremendous appeal in the idea of turning corn into alcohol and burning it in a farm tractor, thus eliminating all those middlemen. But if it can't be done

economically, it doesn't make sense.

After all, every bushel of grain that goes into a farm still is worth so many dollars in the grain market. So that value must be charged against the final product.

As long as fuel is readily available, and I think it always will be for agriculture, then the real consideration is can you buy more fuel with a bushel of grain than you can make from it in an on-farm still.

With present technology and fuel prices, the only conclusion is to sell the grain, buy fuel, and lease the alcohol distillery business to someone else.



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