

# Ram sale buyers have 'field day'

STATE COLLEGE — The prices for Pennsylvania's fifth annual performance tested ram sale fell far below the average of previous sales. The sale was held on June 6 at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Meat Animal Evaluation Center, in State College.

According to Robert Kumball, manager of the Meat Evaluation Center, the prices were lower because of several factors — tight money and the weather.

"We didn't have as large a crowd because of the nice weather. I suppose after several days of rain, people wanted to get out in the fields," he said.

"When there's no money and no people, it's tough to sell animals," he added, noting this group of rams was one of the best performing ever on test.

There were 31 rams sold at an average of \$200.

In the Suffolk breed eighteen rams brought an average price of \$220. The top indexing Suffolk ram was sold by Mrs. Paul Kelly of Hartstown to Penns Cave Inc. of Center Hall for \$475. Lot #54, owned by Paul Leader, also was sold for \$475 to Charles King of Sterling, Ohio.

The top indexing Dorset ram was sold by Ovine Alley Dorsets,

Palmyra to Andrew Skolits, Uniontown for \$225. The proceeds from the sale of this ram were donated by the Staver family to the Ag Arena Building Fund. The high selling Dorset ram was sold by Penn State to John W. Kolstee of Warren for \$310. The five Dorset rams averaged \$227.

The high indexing and high selling Shropshire ram went to Maynard B. Witherell of Johnstown for \$225 and was sold by Warn Menhennett of Cochransville. The three Shropshire rams sold for an average of \$162.

Two Corriedale rams owned by J.M. Stowell sold for \$100 each. One went to Barry Hill Farm of Coudersport and the other to Kathy Weaver of Everett. The sale average for four Corriedales was \$81.

The only Southdown ram in the sale was sold to Gerald and Barbara Rohrer of Quarryville for \$275 and was sold by Gary Kwisnek of Clarksburg.

All the rams were examined for reproductive soundness before the sale. They also had been wormed and given shots for tetanus, enterotoxemia, and sore mouth.

Before the sale began, there was a sheep marketing field day. Clair Engle, Extension sheep specialist, said the theme of the program was

teaching sheep producers to "market not sell sheep".

John Zimmerman, of the marketing division for the Department of Agriculture, spoke on lamb grading. Lamb grading began, he said, began in 1961 and is based on grade and weight. The amount of fat covering over the back bone and loin are indicators of quality and finish.

Zimmerman graded some sample lambs and explained to the crowd his reasons for grading. He stated that bucks, wet, and dirty sheep are often discounted because of the extra weight they carry.

Robert Mikesell, a sheep breeder and feeder from Zanesville, Ohio, who finishes out about 10,000 head of lambs, discussed the importance of proper trucking of lambs, and always making sure they have enough clean air and are dry.

Merchandising the lamb carcass was discussed by Jim Watkins, assistant professor of animal science in meats. He stressed the fact that the consumer is looking for a "light pink color" indicating a young lamb, and that lambs with heavy legs (over 7 lbs.) are hard to merchandise. Watkins then yield graded three carcasses and a demonstration how to cut up another.



The high indexing Dorset ram at the 5th annual performance test sale sold for \$225. The Kenneth Staver family, owners of the ram, donated the proceeds to the Ag Arena building fund.

Tom Calvert, president of the Sheep & Wool Growers Association, discussed the Association's role in the upcoming

Ag Arena Benefit Sale. Any producer interested in donating a sheep for the sale is asked to contact Calvert. L.D.

## Who'll name the new Ag Arena?

BY LAURIE DOBROSKY

UNIVERSITY PARK — Who's going to name the new Ag Arena now being planned for the Penn State College of Agriculture? Dairy producers, beef cattle producers, along with sheep and swine breeders may each have their shot at christening the building through a combined effort scheduled for this fall.

To raise money needed for the arena, a livestock sale is going to be held. This Ag Arena Benefit Sale will find registered beef and dairy cattle, sheep and swine — all donated — crossing the auction block. Once the auctioneer's gavel falls, half the proceeds from the sale of each animal will be given to the University, with the breeder retaining the other half.

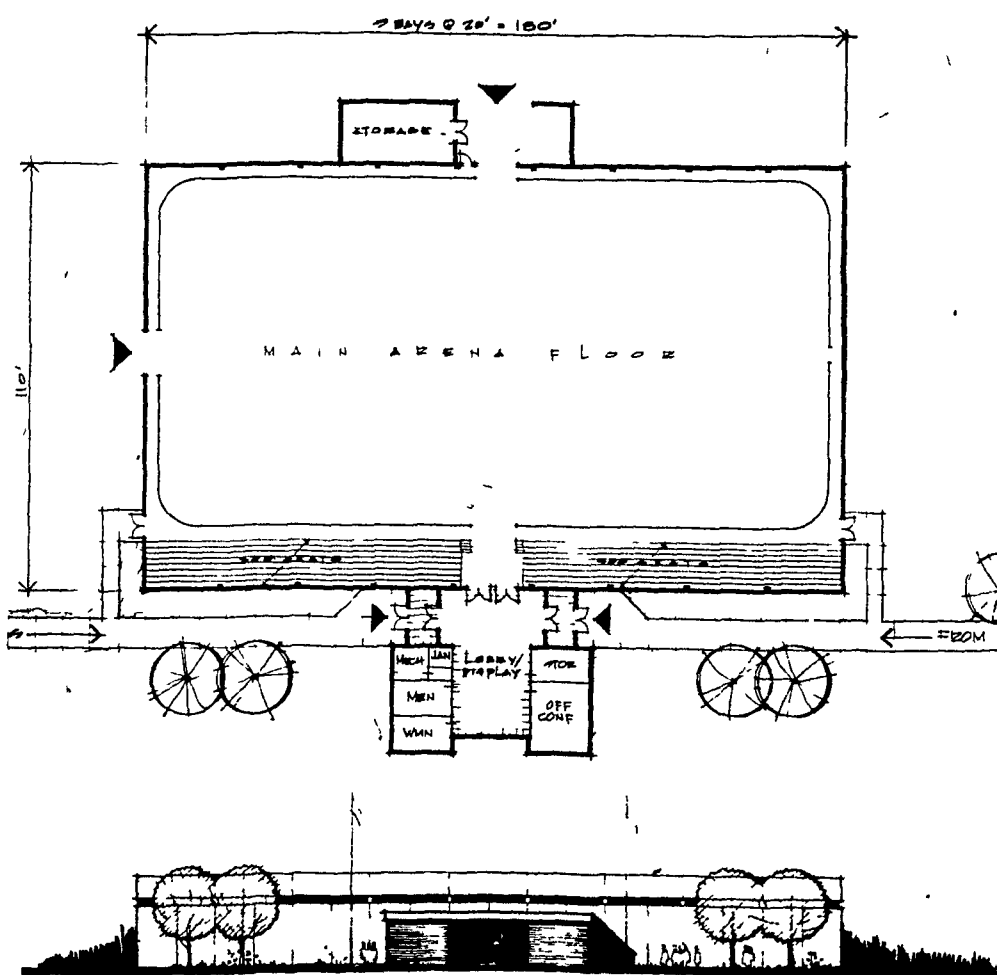
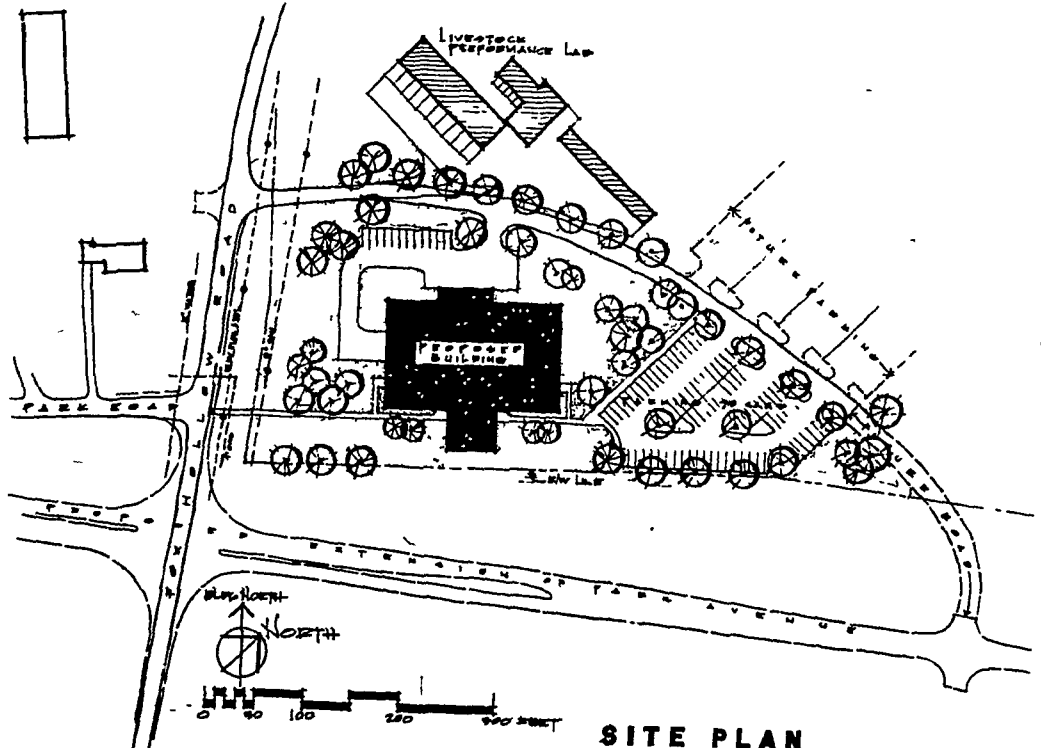
The sale, which has been scheduled for sometime in November, will be held at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. William Nichol, secretary of the Holstein Association, will serve as sale

chairman.

The tentative schedule is to sell the beef and dairy cattle in the morning. Following this sale a buffet luncheon will be held. Then in the evening, there will be the sale of the sheep and swine. According to Thomas King, director of Extension and associate dean for the College of Agriculture, horses and goats will be excluded from the sale, but may be included in future sales.

A number of livestock species groups are in charge of approaching various breeders for animal donations. The Cattlemen's Association is in charge of beef cattle. William Nichol, will line up the dairy cattle consignments. Sheep will be obtained by the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association. The Pennsylvania Swine Breeders Cooperative will procure the hogs. Students and extension personnel will also be asked to help contact breeders.

King says, the sale committee is



hoping that all of the expenses for the sale will be donated. This includes the auctioneers, catalog, and sales help. Anyone wishing to donate their services is asked to contact William Nichol at 839 Benner Pike, State College, 16801; Phone 814/234-0364, or Milford Heddeleston, Ag. Administration Building, University Park, 16802; Phone 814/863-0263.

The Ag Arena will be used for a number of activities both in the instruction of students and for Extension activities. The university has no place at the present time to hold any of the larger college of agriculture activities that take place.

The complex will consist of an arena 90 x 180 feet with seating for 600 people, restrooms, an office and storage areas.

According to King, there is likely to be additional holding pens for animals placed on the back of the building, the completion of this new addition, to the original plans for the building will depend on if sufficient funds can be achieved.

The arena will be suitable for working with horses, cattle, sheep and other animals. The building is scheduled to be used as a classroom, for conferences and for short courses. In addition, such activities as the Horticulture Show, Little International

Livestock Show, Dairy Exposition and 4-H and FFA livestock judging contests will also be accommodated.

The proposed building site will be a convenient distance between all livestock facilities and will be easily accessible by campus bus lines for students and visitors. The site is located between the meat animal evaluation center and the meats laboratory on Fox Hollow Road.

The estimated cost of the facility is \$900,000. According to William Engle, associate director of the office of gifts and endowments, as of May 1, \$120,264 had been raised for the ag arena. This includes all of the money raised by donations and the phone-a-thon held to solicit funds from alumni.

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