

Hereford certificate combines pedigree and performance

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The American Polled Hereford Association has announced the release of a new performance pedigree for the breed. The most complete merger of ancestral and performance data in the industry, it combines pedigree and performance data in one certificate.

"Complete" is the key word in describing the new certificate, as it includes evaluation for maternal, growth and carcass traits. Breeding values are calculated and an accuracy rating is included for each estimated breeding value.

For each animal, registered with the APHA, the new certificate will include a three-generation ancestral record; EBVs and accuracy ratings for birthweight, weaning weight, maternal traits and yearling weight; the individual's performance information on the subject animal, its sire and dam; and the progeny record of the subject, its sire, dam, paternal and maternal grandsires. All of this is on one page in a simple form that is easy to read and understand with just a little practice.

EBVs are the most current, modern and up-to-date selection tools available in the beef industry. They represent the step beyond the traditional performance records. In calculating EBVs, the performance record of the individual and all of its naturally raised sibs and half-sibs (on both the sire's and dam's sides), and the records of all the naturally raised progeny of paternal and maternal grandsires are used.

The greater the number of records contributing to the EBV, the more accurate it will be. With the wide-spread use of performance records and artificial breeding to outstanding sires,

there should be performance data available on most APHA-issued pedigrees.

Performance information will be presented in three sections.

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Cattlemen's efforts to reduce stress and provide proper nutrition for new feeder steers are important keys to making profit in the cattle business, contends Homer Sewell, University of Missouri-Columbia extension cattle feeding specialist.

"The death of a feeder steer worth \$300 to \$400 can absorb the profit from another 10 to 15 head, even when cattle feeding is more profitable than it has been in the past couple of years," he says.

"Prompt delivery to the feedlot and other measures to reduce stress in the marketing, transporting and receiving of feeder cattle will help reduce, sickness and death loss."

Sewell says proper nutrition of new feeders is a big help in keeping down health problems and giving cattle a fast start in the feedlot. He and other cattle feeding specialists make these recommendations.

—Feed natural protein for the first two to three weeks in the feedlot. Then consider changing to non-protein nitrogen.

—Feed two to three times daily. That provides more opportunity to observe cattle and make rapid adjustments in amount of feed.

—If adequate minerals are not included in the ration, provide a supplement, free choice of salt and dicalcium phosphorus at a ratio of 60 to 40.

"Receiving rations should be

Production records include calving ease, weaning weight and yearling weight; maternal records will include the calving ease of an

individual's first-calf heifers and the weaning weights of their calves; and Gold Seal records will calculate carcass cutability and

lean weight per day of age from animals on the Gold Seal portion of the APHA's Superior Sire Program

Don't stress new steers

well fortified with nutrients to supply daily needs of cattle. That's because the amount of daily feed intake is low and certain nutrients may have been depleted in the animal during the off-feed time and stress period prior to arrival at the feedlot," Sewell said.

Protein levels of 13.5 to 20 percent of the ration's dry matter have been recommended for receiving rations in calves, Sewell says.

Recommendations also vary on energy levels or the ration of grain to roughage in receiving rations for new cattle.

California researchers found a 72 percent concentrate ration gave them fastest gain for starting 180- to 350-pound feeder calves. And a New Mexico State University study, showed that medication costs were reduced by providing free choice hay the first week when a 75 percent concentrate ration was fed to 350 pound calves.

As for vitamins in receiving rations for cattle, Sewell says the studies there are "inconclusive."

For example, a Texas study showed no value for vitamin B additions to receiving rations. But some studies have shown a response from 50 to 250 parts per million of a B vitamin in starting rations.

As for vitamin A, studies show stressed cattle may have impaired ability to convert carotene to

vitamin A for metabolic use.

"Receiving rations should be fortified with enough vitamin A to meet the animal's needs without dependence upon carotene sources," Sewell said. The cattle requirement for vitamin A is about 2,000 I.U. per 100 pounds of body weight or 1,000 I.U. per pound of ration.

"Levels two to three times this are needed for liver storage of vitamin A. So about 2,000 to 3,000 I.U. per pound of ration should be adequate for receiving rations."

Since Rumensin depresses feed intake, Sewell said, it should be left out of starter rations or fed at a reduced level (10 grams per ton) for the first two to three weeks cattle are on feed.

He said buffers such as sodium bicarbonate may help keep down digestive problems when cattle are started on corn silage and high grain rations. He recommended sodium bicarbonate at the rate of 1 percent of the ration's dry matter or 1½ to 2 ounces daily.

Ocker gets land judging award

CHAMBERSBURG — Wilmer Ocker, a Vo-Ag student at James Buchanan Senior High School, was awarded a \$50 savings bond from the Franklin County Conservation District Directors for being the County Land Judging Contest winner.

The contest was held recently in conjunction with Vo-Ag Field Days at Mont Alto Campus. Ocker is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Ocker, Warm Spring Road, Williamson.

Accompanying Ocker for this presentation was Blaine May, President of the Franklin County Vo-Ag Teachers Association.

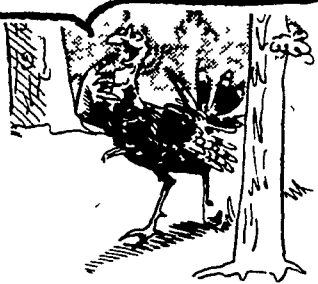
Plans are being completed for the District's Tree Seedling Sale

this coming spring. Order forms will be made available at a later date.

John Akers, District Conservationist for the Chambersburg office of the USDA Soil Conservation Service, gave a report of his office's activities for the month.

Beverly Kauffman, District Manager, gave an update of erosion and sedimentation complaints received during the first quarter of new Erosion and Sediment Control Program administered under the DER, Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation.

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