

Cloned calves bring \$47,000 before birth

FORT COLLINS, Co. — A pair of unborn Simmental calves, "cloned" at Colorado State University, recently brought \$47,000 at a Kentucky cattle auction.

The calves, to be born next year, were brought by Claus von Franzius of Schwartz Creek, Mich., during a sale at Mt.

Brilliant Farm in Fayette County, Ky.

"As far as we know, this is the first sale of its kind, but there probably will be a lot more," said Dr. George Seidel, a CSU researcher who helped develop the cloning process. "People would prefer to buy two good animals instead of one."

Seidel said von Franzius actually will have his choice of three pairs of calves now implanted in six recipient cows. The cows have been staying at CSU's Animal Reproduction Laboratory embryo transfer unit, where they were impregnated. They will be shipped to Kentucky and the calves will be born at Mt. Brilliant.

Each recipient cow is pregnant with half of an embryo, produced through a process developed by Seidel, Dr. Peter Elsdon and Dr. Timothy Williams. The process involves artificially inseminating a donor cow, collecting an embryo non-surgically, microsurgically splitting the embryo and then placing the two halves into one or two recipient cows.

The result is artificially produced identical twins (technically clones, individuals with the same genetic material).

The first pair of identical twin heifers produced by the CSU process was born May 18. Since then several other sets have been born; several dozen more are gestating.

The calves auctioned in Ken-

tucky are out of Lacombe Achilles 261A and Caroline. Achilles, who belongs to Mt. Brilliant owner Mike Molloy, has sired 40,000 registered offspring via frozen semen and artificial insemination.

Molloy has cooperated extensively in CSU embryo transfer research. He housed Achilles at CSU until this spring, when the 13-year-old bull was retired and returned to Kentucky.

Molloy auctioned off the unborn twins during one of his annual cattle sales. The pair brought the highest price of any lot sold that day.

Bidding began at \$10,000, climbed to \$25,000, stalled at \$29,000, jumped to \$40,000 and ended with von Franzius' bid, according to local reports.

Pa. fruit production up

HARRISBURG — Based on July 1 conditions, Pennsylvania farmers will produce more apples, peaches, pears, sweet cherries and rye than last year while producing less oats, barley and wheat, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. They will produce the same quantity of tart cherries.

Pennsylvania's commercial apple crop this year is forecast at 570 million pounds, up 43 percent from 400 million pounds last year. Peach production is expected to total 80 million pounds, up 23 percent from a year ago.

The sweet cherry crop is estimated at 700 tons, up 133 percent from last year's short crop. Tart cherry production is forecast at 8.0 million pounds the same as the 1981 crop. Pear

production is estimated at 4,500 tons, up 50 percent.

Winter wheat production is estimated at 8.0 million bushels, down 18 percent from a year ago with 228,000 acres for harvest compared with 270,000 last year.

The oats crop at 19.1 million bushels is down five percent from a year ago with 335,000 acres for harvest compared with 345,000 in 1981. Barley production is 3.6 million bushels is down 12 percent. Acreage for harvest decreased from 76,000 acres in 1981 to 72,000 acres for 1982.

Rye production is expected to total 396,000 bushels this year compared with 363,000 last year with 12,000 acres for harvest compared with 11,000 acres last year.



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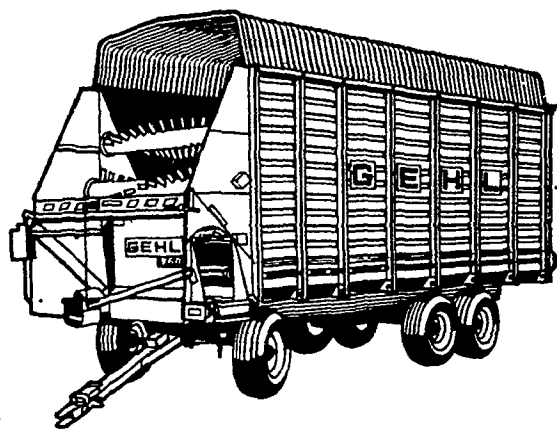
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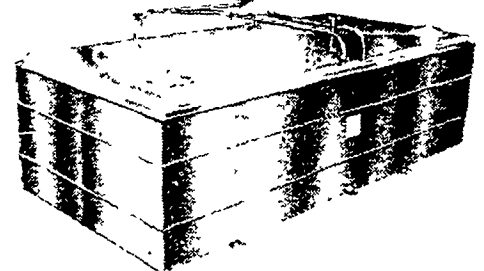
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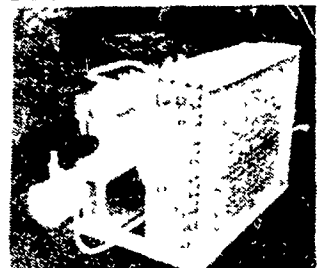
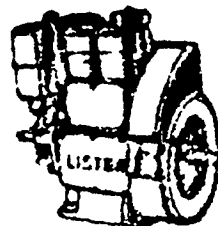
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