

## Future needs dictate 'roughage' beef animals

ITHACA, N.Y. — Polled Herefords that will perform well on roughage and can withstand Northeast winters are predicted to be the ideal or goal for breeders five years from now.

Both James Conway, manager of Overlook Farm at Little Falls, N.Y., and Bob Falke, manager of Dunwalke Farm at Far Hills, N.J., panel members at the Empire Polled Hereford Association's pre-sale program on May 13 agreed that emphasis on frame and size has or is producing brood cows that "are big enough."

Frame score (height measured at the hips) will not be emphasized so much and brood cows will be asked to perform on feeds grown locally and with a little less "TLC", Conway said.

Falke added, "the practical breeder will be the one to survive and those producers with only small sized cows will self-destruct. Breeders probably won't be able to afford to purchase grain and there should be no need to produce beyond a frame size 5 cow. Environment and management will be the influence on future gains," he said.

The panel discussion while geared to Polled Hereford seed-stock producers provided some basic goals for all beef cattlemen to consider, according to James Mickelson of Newfield who acted as moderator.

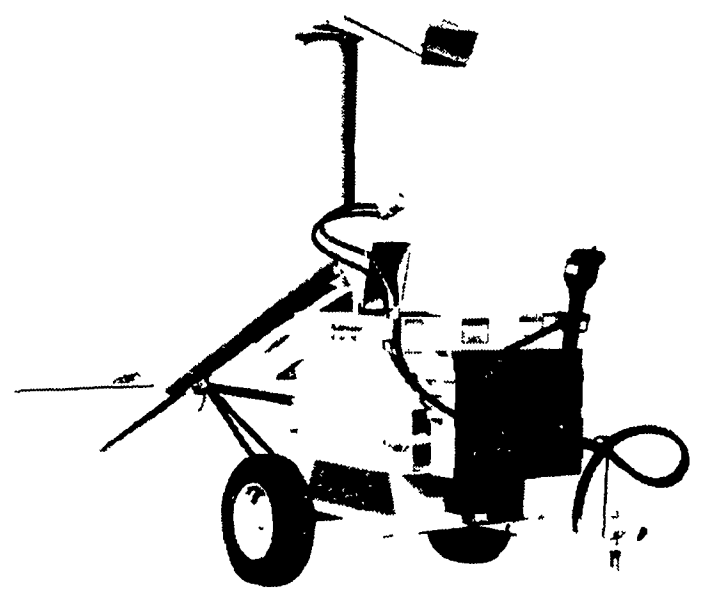
Merchandising was discussed by both Conway and Falke. "You need to produce the kind of cattle people want to buy - cows with milkability, frame and conformation - and then let people know you have them," Falke said. He listed showing at county and state fairs, consignment to association sales, private treaty sales, and advertising as ways to merchandise cattle. Conway added, "most merchandising will be on a one-to-one basis so don't be afraid to blow your own horn."

Asked what to look for in selecting the ideal Polled Hereford female, Conway emphasized the need "to buy animals that will add to your herd, that will improve it, and that will complement your current breeding program." He said, "genetics and pedigrees are important" but warned, "don't make a purchase on the basis of

pedigree alone." Falke said he looks for milking ability, frame and overall conformation when selecting breeding stock, "Buy an animal you will be proud to own," he suggested. In selecting replacement heifers Falke said he selects "from cow families we can count on for conformation and Estimated Breeding Values (EBV's)."

The two also discussed A.I. as a means of genetic advancement. Falke advised breeders with small herds to "go with proven bulls in your A.I. programs. They are not always the most popular but they will improve your herd, add stars (for superior or other breed designations) to your pedigrees, and will be available at relatively modest cost. Conway noted, "using the national champion bull will be expensive but if used on your best cow will add to your merchandising program." He suggested using young bulls with selection based on pedigrees and EBV numbers for an A.I. program in a small herd.

Another pre-sale event was a clipping and fitting demonstration by Junior members Nicole Swan of Whitney Point and Dan Mickelson of Newfield.



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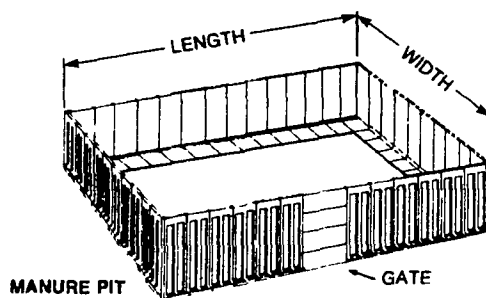
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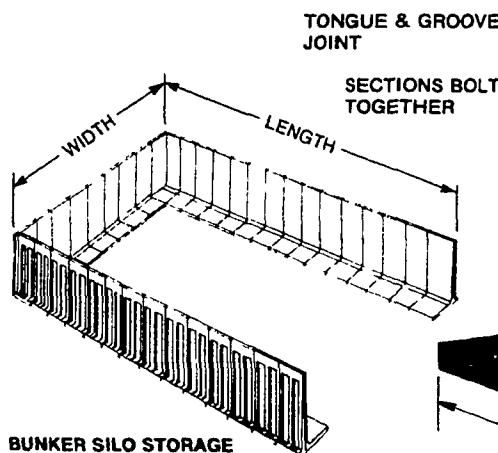
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120'	431	648	864	1080
130'	467	688	936	1170
140'	503	755	1008	1260
150'	539	808	1080	1350

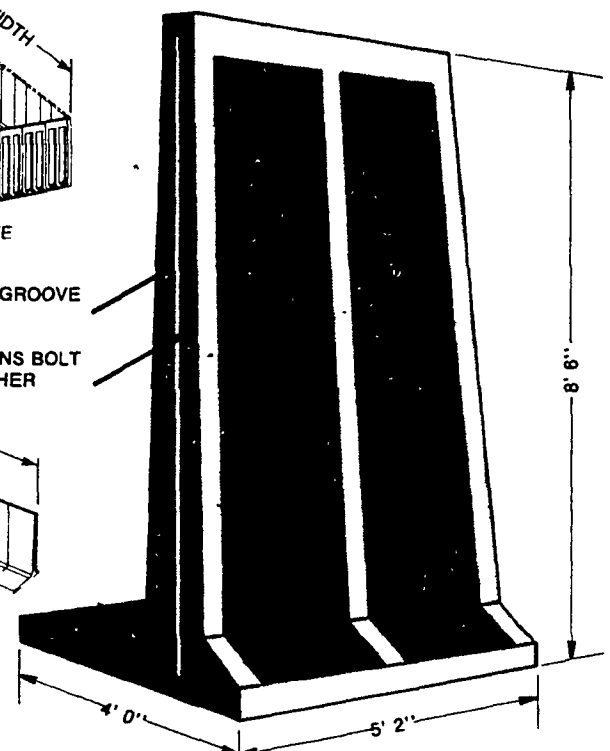
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