

# Shorthorn breed makes performance a requirement

OMAHA, Neb. — The new Shorthorn Performance Records (SPR) program of the American Shorthorn Association (ASA) gained industry recognition as the ultimate in performance testing available to both commercial and purebred cattlemen.

The computerized program, now past its infant stages, was in the spotlight at the Denver meeting of Shorthorn breeders where proposals were presented to incorporate SPR as an eligibility requirement in other ASA programs.

The event, held in conjunction with the National Western, was the annual meeting of the ASA, and the progressive and innovative attitudes seen in recent years from Shorthorn producers was even more evident. Voting delegates representing 26 Districts in the United States and Canada approved two resolutions that involved the integration of the performance program as a requirement for sale and show eligibility in events sponsored by the ASA.

According to Roger E. Hunsley,

executive secretary-treasurer of the ASA, the move set a precedent for a beef breed organization in terms of placing so much emphasis on economically important performance data. To combine data from a comprehensive program with the magnitude of SPR, into other traditional events such as sales and shows, is a major breakthrough in making the Shorthorn breed an industry leader, he said.

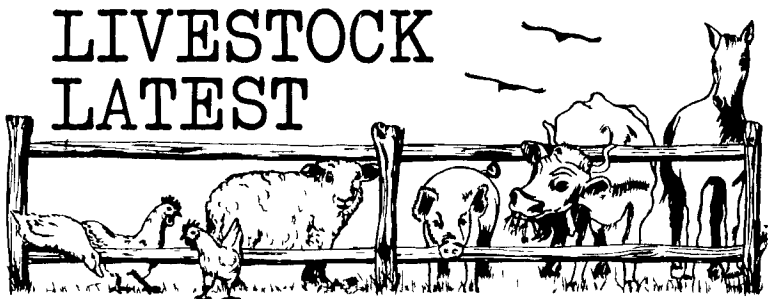
The first resolution, Hunsley said, provided that owners of Shorthorn and Polled Shorthorn cattle consigned to ASA sponsored sales will be required to have their entire herds enrolled in the SPR program and provide SPR information on individual animals that are consigned. He listed the National Sale and/or the Denver Seedstock Special Edition Sale; the National Shorthorn Range Bull Evaluation Center Sale; and the North American Heifer Calf Futurity Sale as current sales that would be affected after July 1, 1984.

"The Shorthorn breed has made tremendous strides in the performance of their cattle," Hunsley said. "This resolution that incorporates data on cattle in these major breed sales will document the performance proof of the outstanding seedstock being offered. The performance ability, coupled with other documented economical traits maintained by the breed, will definitely be proof for the entire beef industry to watch. Never has such a large group of producers been so aggressive in making performance so high as a breed priority."

Hunsley stated further that the breed again showed progressiveness and willingness to back its performance program by passing the second resolution in regard to show ring eligibility at events after July 1, 1985. In a show where the ASA contributes a portion of the premium monies, the owners of exhibited cattle must have their entire herds enrolled in the SPR program to be eligible for that premium money. In addition, SPR information must be provided on the individual animal in the show, Dr. Hunsley, said. The resolution, he added, would not apply to 4-H or FFA youth or to members of the American Junior Shorthorn Association.

These two resolutions, the breed executive noted, have set another new dimension for the Shorthorn breed. The impact they will have on Shorthorn and Polled Shorthorn cattle will contribute greatly to the continued improvement and development of the breed and its influence upon the entire beef industry, Hunsley stressed.

"It shows a great deal of foresightedness on the part of producers. Their awareness of the importance of performance data in events that will catch industry attention is to be commended and their willingness to accept such a challenge in the development of their cattle is another sign of the progressive attitudes and innovative thinking that is seen within the Shorthorn breed of today," Hunsley concluded.



## Sheep numbers down less than anticipated

DENVER, Co. — The USDA Sheep Inventory Report released recently shows a decline in sheep numbers for 1983, but not as much as had been expected.

"Some industry analysts had predicted an eight to 10 percent drop," says Eldon White, director of producer services for the American Sheep Producers Council in Denver, "but the figures show a reduction of only five percent."

USDA set the Jan. 1, 1984, inventory at 11.4 million head and revised the Jan. 1, 1983, inventory to 12 million head.


"This larger-than-anticipated inventory will help relieve some of the pressure on the packing industry," White said. "Most lamb packers have been operating about

80 percent capacity, and some feared that a drastically reduced inventory would signal trouble for lamb packers. Although slaughter will be reduced from 1983, it won't be as low as feared."

White also pointed out that concerns about meeting demand in recently developed Southeast and Western markets were allayed by the report.

Also, the USDA report showed an increase in the average value per head of sheep from \$51.70 in 1982 to \$52.10 in 1983.

"With an increase in dollar value, strengthening consumer confidence in the economy, stronger demand for lamb and a smaller inventory, outlook for the sheep industry in 1984 looks brighter," White said.



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Swine producers should be aware of several efficiencies in the nursery that can save money. In fact, as much as two week's time to market can be saved if the producer is practicing good nursery management. Unfortunately, nursery management is usually the weakest link in a hog operation.

How does one determine whether he is doing a good job in the nursery or not? A rule of thumb is that pigs should weigh at least 40 pounds by the time they reach eight weeks of age.

There's some common sense involved, too. If the pigs are often huddled together in a pen, it's a good indication that they are cold. In that case, a producer needs to turn up the temperature, cut the air flow, or both. Some other efficiencies that can be achieved are as follows.

The pens in a nursery should be cleaned out prior to bringing in a new batch of pigs. This is typically accomplished by the all-in, all-out procedure. A primary advantage is disease control, although there also is improved performance due to better sanitation

Before bringing in a new batch of pigs, set the temperature at 85 to 90 degrees F. Leave it at that level for the first two weeks, then work it down to 80 to 85 degrees by the time the pigs are getting ready to leave the nursery.

Allow at least two and one-half square feet of floor space for each pig. If pigs are more crowded than that, they probably won't gain as well as those with adequate room.

A common mistake is to put too much feed in the feeder. This can result in some of the feed sitting around for two to three weeks. The feed can become moldy, especially if the pigs have defecated or urinated on it. Fresh feed can stimulate the pig's curiosity and lead them to eat more. That's exactly the goal — to get the pigs to eat as much as possible.

The first three weeks in the nursery are the most efficient time — from a feed conversion standpoint — that a pig has after it has left the sow. For every pound of feed consumed, a pig at this point will put on about three-fourths of a pound of gain



# Pa. Angus honors top members



Bill Wise, right, of Spring Grove, was presented the 1983 Pennsylvania Angus Association's Outstanding Junior Angus Boy award during the annual meeting in Harrisburg. Presenting Bill his plaque is Fred Frey, Quarryville, president.



The 1983 Pennsylvania Angus Breeder of the Year award went to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Rishel, Glen Rock. Presenting the Rishel's plaque is Fred Frey, left, Quarryville, president of the state association.



Lori Cash, Centre Hall, was honored as the 1983 Pennsylvania Angus Association Outstanding Junior Angus Girl during the annual meeting in Harrisburg. Above, Lori receives her plaque from Fred Frey, Quarryville, president.

## Restaurants serving lamb on the rise

DENVER, Co. — The number of restaurants serving lamb increased 11 percent in 1983, says P.J. Cook, president of the American Sheep Producers Council.

Cook's comments came during an address Wednesday to the National Lamb Feeders Association in Minneapolis, Minn.

"In 1982, 75,665 restaurants were serving lamb," Cook said. "That number climbed to 83,845 in 1983, an 11 percent increase."

The number of restaurants serving lamb has been steadily increasing over the past few years. From 1972 to 1983, the number went up 60 percent.

Cook credits ASPC's efforts as a major reason for the increases

"ASPC staff and merchandising consultants have focused on foodservice, and that seems to be paying off."

Most of these restaurants are white tablecloth, but Cook expects more family-style chains to add lamb to their menus this next year.

"The new Denver Rib has been particularly well received," he said. This cut is part of the "New Look of American Lamb," an alternative carcass-breaking method developed by ASPC to more effectively utilize the entire carcass.

"We'll be seeing a lot more Denver Ribs in family-style restaurants this next year," Cook said