

W. Va. beef referendum set for April 6

MONTROSE, W. Va. — The Beef Industry Self-Improvement Program passed by state legislators in 1983 now awaits

ratification by West Virginia's beef producers on Friday, April 6, at University Extension offices in each county of the state.

If implemented, the Beef Check-Off Program, as it is commonly known, would assess \$1.00 per head of all cattle sold in West Virginia

for use in promoting beef on the state and national levels, and improving sales and profitability of West Virginia's beef industry in general.

According to Dr. M.R. McClung, secretary-treasurer of the West Virginia Cattlemen's Association (WVCA), chances for passage of the program are "very good", despite the hindrance an 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. voting time poses for those who work off-the-farm jobs during those hours. In addition to the WVCA, the Check-Off Program has received public endorsement by the W. Va. Farm Bureau, the WVDHIA, and state Angus, Charolais, Polled Hereford, and Simmental associations.

If approved, the program would be under the direction of a governor-appointed assessment board. Made up of six beef producers, one dairy producer, one public livestock market representative and one meat packer, the nine-member board would decide how funds collected

are to be used. Producer input would be solicited to assist the board in decision-making.

A built-in safety valve of the program allows for any individual paying an assessment the right to full refund of all fees paid, in the event the producer feels the program is not working in his/her best interests.

Embryo flush tops Wye sale

QUEENSTOWN, Md. — A total of 50 animals and one embryo flush were sold at the Wye Angus University of Maryland Foundation's Sixth Annual Production Sale in Queenstown, Maryland on Tuesday.

The event's high seller was an embryo flush purchased by Back Gate Angus Ranch, of Cameron, Mont. For \$8,100 Back Gate buys the right to choose a Wye cow to be inseminated by the bull of the ranch's choice.

At \$5,500, Ladylove of Wye (2281) led the field of 21 cow/calf entries. Sired by Franchester of Wye, Ladylove was purchased by Ballantrae Angus Farm, Westfield, NY.

Second highest seller in the cow/calf category was Maybel of Wye (2501), a Conan daughter, sold to Scott Crawford of Platte City, Mo., for \$3,300.


Farrier of Wye UMF (5282), at \$5,000, was the top seller among the 29 bulls sold. A son of Fantom of Wye, Farrier was purchased by Frank Hinkson, Friona, Texas.

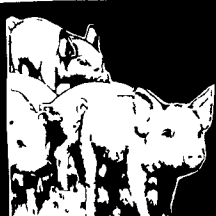
Running second place was Bondsman of Wye, UMF (5325), a Landau son, bought by Keyacre Farms, of Lynchburg, Va., for \$4,400.

Receipts for the 51 animals sold totalled \$109,050, for a sale average of \$2,138. The sale's auctioneer was Mike Jones of Georgia.

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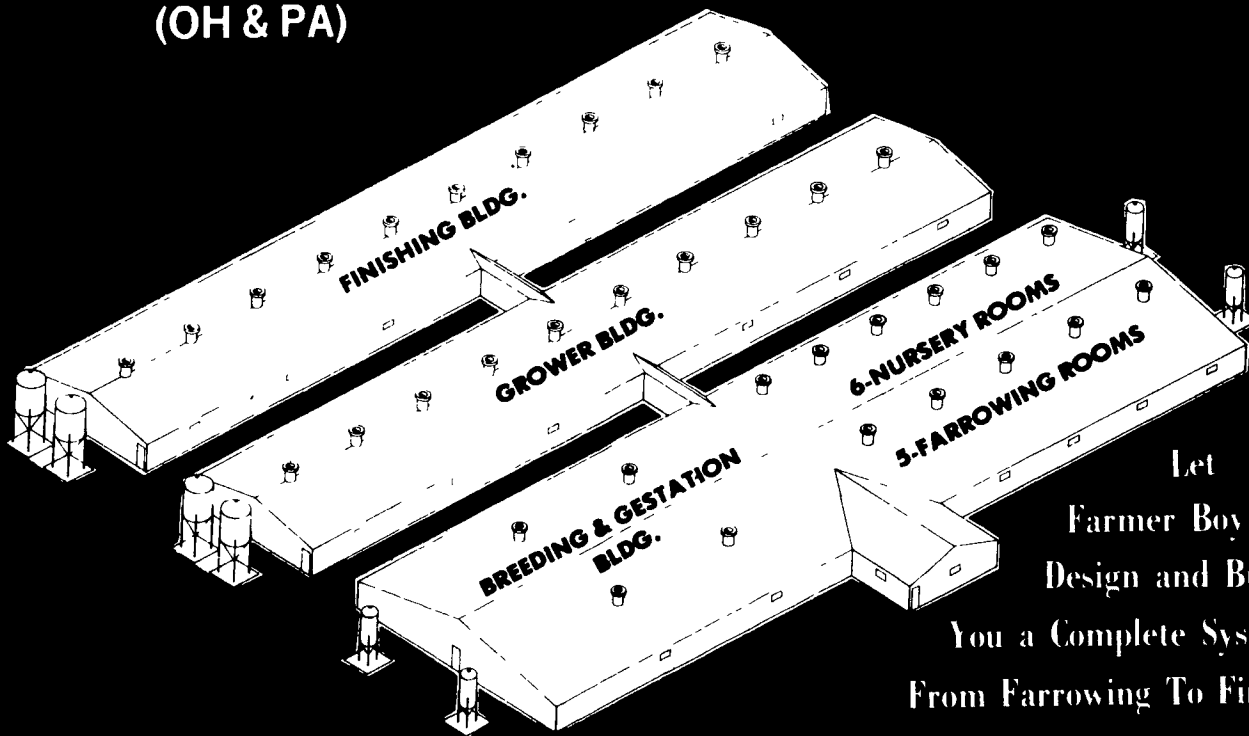
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