

EPHA posts Classic Sale results

ITHACA, NY — Out-of-state consignors topped the Sixth Annual Empire Classic Sale April 28, at the Livestock Pavilion on the Cornell campus. The sale was sponsored by the Empire Polled Hereford Association.

Preceding the sale was a program by Dr. Dan Fox, of Cornell's animal science department. Speaking at Morrison Hall, Fox urged cattle producers to set priorities, and to use performance programs as a management tool.

Dr. Fox predicted that by 1995 there would be 300,000 head of beef cattle in the Northeast. He said emphasis would be on optimum use of the thousands of acres of pasture land with the beef cattle representing the best use of land and labor resources.

About one-half of the beef producers will follow an intensive management program and will work to achieve the production of

the most pounds of beef per acre, Dr. Fox said. He said one realistic goal for such an intensive management program would be to wean a 600 pound calf from every brood cow each year.

While there will still be about half of the producers involved in less intensive management, there will be an increased demand for good bulls. Dr. Fox challenged his audience of seedstock producers to breed bulls that will meet this expanded demand, in his words, "bulls that will produce cattle for consumer and market needs of the future."

He suggested initial performance testing could begin on the farm with a set of scales and a calculator. He also encouraged enrollment in breed association programs such as the American Polled Hereford Association Guidelines, and the performance testing program offered by Cornell

University and the New York Beef Cattlemen's Association. He had praise for the American Polled Hereford Association's sire evaluation program and reviewed it briefly.

Dr. Fox called for better record keeping. He said the growing use of farm computers would help producers make better use of performance testing and evaluation programs as they set goals for their beef cattle production now and in the future.

His talk was followed by a question and answer period and then by an Open House at the Livestock Pavilion.

The sale's top selling bull was a two year old son of "The Stick", CHF Stickicator 4P, consigned by Shayke Hill Farm of Bethlehem, Ct. The buyer at \$1,850 was Eugene Richter of Forrestville.

The second highest selling bull was Dunwalke Line One 352, a



POLLED HEREFORD

yearling son of BT CL Domino 445M, consigned by Dunwalke Farm of Far Hills, N.J. The buyers at \$1,500 were Cards Maple Hill Farm of McGraw and Rod Birdsall of Homer.

The third highest selling bull was PJF VJB75 Bandit 147, a January 1983 son of Victor J Banner 75J, consigned by Paul Gabriel Jr. of Alfred Station and bought for \$1,000 by Charles Rapplea of Lodi.

T.E. Livingston of Howes Cave and Elm Farm of Richmondville purchased half-interest and full possession in a September 1983 son of BT CL Domino 445 consigned by West Wind Farm of Lincoln, R.I., for \$1,000.

The high selling female was Dunwalke Mystic 74R a June 1983 daughter of BT CL Domino 445M consigned by Dunwalke Farm. The buyer at \$1,500 was Stephen Card of McGraw.

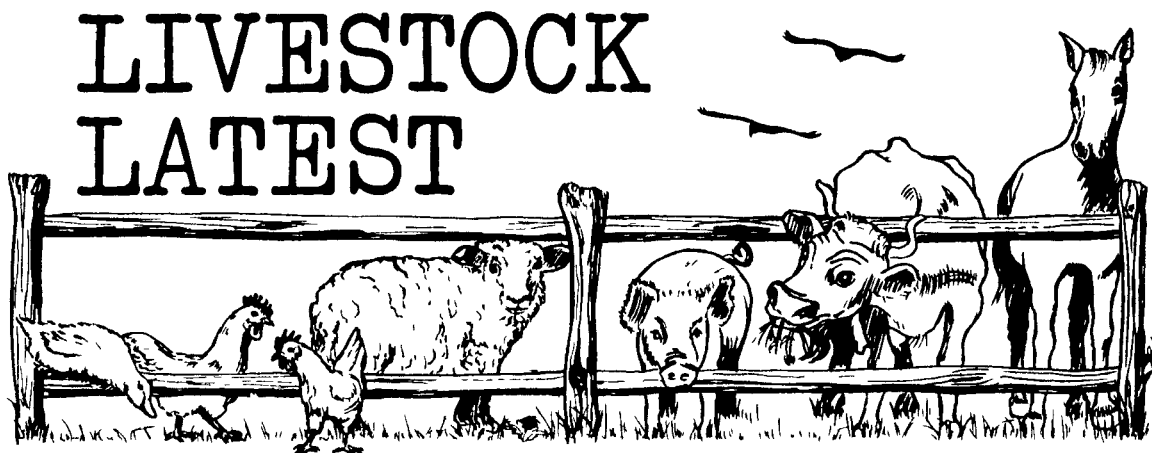
The second high selling female was a consignment from Elm Farm, EF Miss Joggette 18 M, a four year old "Jogger" daughter that sold for \$1,150 to Donald Doty of Shortsville. Doty also purchased another Elm Farm consignment, EF Spirits Vindi 40N, a June 1981 Vindicator daughter, for \$1,000.

The third high selling female was a two-year-old Enforcer daughter, DM MS Reenforce 06, consigned by Daniel Mickelson,

Jerylin Farm of Newfield. The buyer at \$1,100 was Dunwalke Farm.

The 42½ lots in the sale grossed \$28,060 for a sale average of \$660. Sale chairman Robert Card of McGraw expressed appreciation to the consignors and to the auctioneer John "Red" Shaw of Ohio. Consignors included Burr-Ayr Farm of Trumansburg, Card Maple Hill Farm of McGraw, Michelle Coombs of McGraw, Dunwalke Farm of Far Hills, N.J., Elm Farm of Richmondville, Follifoot Farm of Dryden, Phil and Paul Gabriel of Alfred Station, Homestead Hereford Farm of Whitney Point, Daniel and Diane Mickelson, Jerylin Farm of Newfield, Lazy Waters Farm of Bainbridge, Marshall Farms of Port Byron, Shayke Hill Farm and Paramount Cattle Co. of Bethlehem, Ct., R & R Farm of Seneca Falls, Shady-Brae Farm of Verona, Si-Jo Farm of Pulaski, Sycamore Acres of Trumansburg, West Wind Farm of Lincoln, R.I. and Glen Brooks Farm of Greene.

The Empire Polled Hereford Association will sponsor its Seventh Annual Empire Classic Show July 28, at the Cayuga County Fairgrounds at Weedsport. The Junior Show will be July 27, at the same location.



LIVESTOCK LATEST

Strong market predicted

Hog and beef output to decline during second half

UNIVERSITY PARK — During economic recoveries consumers spend more for food. The current recovery is no exception. In 1983 consumers spent \$312 billion for food produced by U.S. farmers, up four percent from the previous year. A record supply of meat was available to consumers in 1983: beef, up three percent; pork, up seven percent; lamb and mutton, up three percent; veal, up one percent; broilers, up three percent; and turkeys, up four percent.

The increase in meat output continued during the early months of 1984 despite weather problems which delayed marketings and hampered deliveries to meat packing plants. January-February beef output was up four percent from a year ago, veal output was up 15 percent, pork was up 10 percent, and lamb and mutton production increased 11 percent. Despite the increased production, meat prices at wholesale and retail have been increasing in recent weeks. It appears the supply picture will change dramatically during the remainder of 1984.

After increasing about four percent in the first quarter of 1984, beef output will drop back to year-earlier levels during the April-June period. In the second half, marketings should drop below year-earlier levels and beef output for the year will average about two percent below 1983.

The current cattle cycle is going to be much shorter than previous cycles which averaged 10 to 12 years. Cattle numbers increased in only three of those years, from 1980 through 1982. Numbers began to decrease slightly with the January 1, 1982 inventory and continued in 1983 and 1984.

The decline should continue for another year or two. Last year's drought and high feed prices forced more cattle to slaughter.

Cow slaughter increased seven percent in the last half of 1983. The base for future expansion continues to decline. The beef cow herd on January 1, 1984 was down one percent from a year ago and replacement heifer numbers were down two percent. The 1984 calf crop will be down from 1983.

Feeder cattle prices will strengthen through spring and remain strong for the remainder of 1984. Prices for fed cattle could advance another dollar per hundredweight for midyear. Prices will remain fairly stable in the July-September period and only a minor decline is expected in the October-December period. Cattle feeding became profitable again in January after many months of losses. Most months in 1984 should be profitable ones.

The beef industry will receive considerable price support from the hog industry in 1984. While producers gave a hint in December that they would cut hog numbers because of high feed prices and the lack of profits, the extent of the cut was a surprise. The Hogs and Pigs

Report released by the USDA on March 20 of this year indicated that the hog inventory was down five percent from a year ago — the lowest March inventory since March 1976.

The breeding herd is down 10 percent from a year ago, lowest level in 11 years. The December-February pig crop was down 13 percent. Sows farrowing during this period of unusually harsh weather averaged 7.26 pigs per litter, compared to 7.44 a year ago. The news was reflected in the future markets immediately. Hog futures for July delivery increased from \$55.80 per hundredweight on March 19 to \$59.47 on April 9 — near contract highs.

Hog markets will be strong in the last half of the year, with July hogs possibly exceeding \$60. It is unusual for hog and beef supplies to decrease at the same time while the economy is growing at a healthy rate. The number of hogs weighing under 60 pounds is down 12 percent, indicating a sharper-than-expected drop in supplies of market hogs by midyear.

Chester County forms Sheep and Wool Assoc.

COATESVILLE — The first general membership meeting of the newly formed Chester County Sheep and Wool Growers Association was held on May 2, at Central Chester County Vo-tech in Coatesville.

Activities included the approval of by-laws and the establishment of a dues structure. Yearly individual membership will be \$6, with the same rate applying to families, partnerships and corporations.

According to Chester County extension agent, Cheryl Fairbairn, all 44 people in attendance were signed as charter members.

Following the business portion of the meeting, a panel discussion was held concerning methods of marketing lamb and wool. Panel members included county sheep producers Bill MacCauley, Atglen, Annette Menhennett, Cochranville, Laura Stratton, Westtown, and New London resident David Lytle.

Rutgers horse study results available

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — An economic study of riding horse farms has been published by Rutgers' Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing. The 29-page report was based on a research project undertaken by Jane Vaughn, a graduate research assistant at the State University, in pursuit of a Master's degree.

The purpose of the study was to provide cost and return data on "hunter" horse farms in New Jersey, and to determine if these enterprises were turning a profit. The information presented will hopefully be useful to current and prospective horse farm owners, as well as pleasure horse owners in terms of planning, managing, and evaluating their equine operation.

The types of services provided

on these hunter horse farms include boarding, riding lessons, horse training, riding facilities, showing, horse selling or leasing, and breeding.

A survey was designed to obtain the data desired on the cost and returns of hunter horse farms. Covered were the farm's capital structure, expenses, types of service offered, and revenues.

The publication, "An Economic Study of Riding Horse Farms in New Jersey," Report #E-044, is available in the Hunterdon County Cooperative Extension office, Extension Center, 4 Gauntt Place, Flemington, NH 08822. Cost is \$2, including postage.

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