

LIVESTOCK LATEST



Krueger farm will host Angus picnic

The home of Triple Crown winner, Scarra, is the site of Pennsylvania's Eastern Angus picnic and field day.

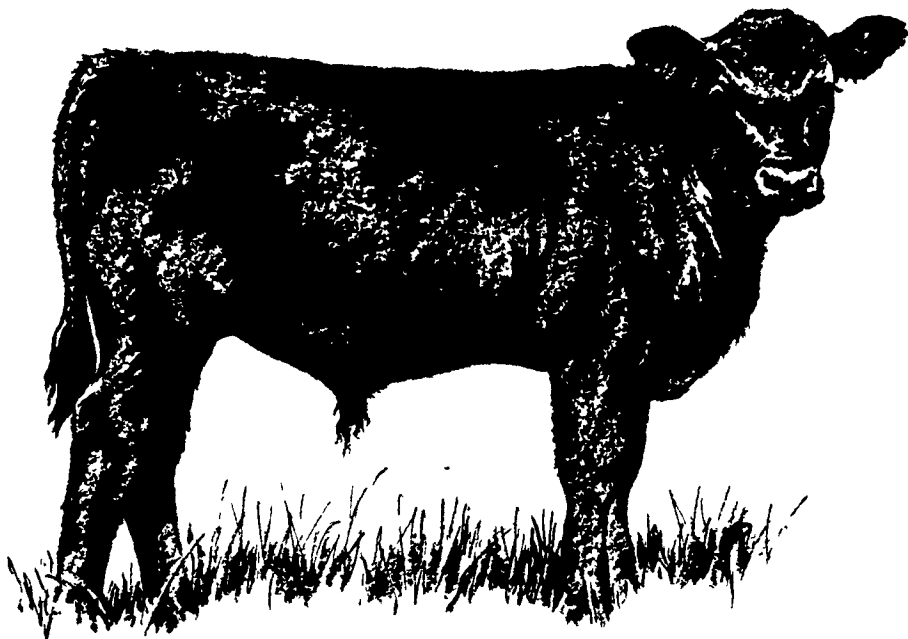
The picnic, which is to be held Sunday, June 10, is hosted by Genetics Unlimited, Inc. and the Greg Krueger Farm, Coatesville.

The picnic and field day will be held at the Krueger Farm, south of Coatesville on Fairview Road.

Registration for the event will begin at 8 a.m. followed by an Angus judging contest and a fitting demonstration. Dr. Jim Evans and staff will give a presentation on

live embryo transfer.

After the steak dinner at noon, small herd merchandising and herd health tips will be the subjects discussed. At 2 p.m. there will be tours of various herd operations in the area. Everyone is invited to share in these activities.



Pa. Angus Breeders Show, July 13, 14

CENTRE HALL — "Destined to be a major Angus Show in the East" is how promoters are advertising the second annual Pennsylvania Angus Breeders Show.

The show and field day will be July 13 and 14 at the Centre County Grange Fairgrounds, Centre Hall. On Friday, July 13, the Board of

Directors, Junior Association and the Ladies Auxiliary will all meet. Following the meetings, roast beef will be served at 6 p.m., and at 7:30 p.m. "Angusfun" recreational events will be held.

Registration runs from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 14. The Angus judging contest will begin at

9 a.m., with divisions for men, ladies and juniors. The livestock show, judged by Wayne Strawn, Yorkville, Illinois, will follow and include classes for bulls, heifers, junior heifers and steers. A showmanship contest and the contest awards will round out the program.

Naturally occurring steroid holds

promise for swine

NEWARK, Del. — When someone mentions the use of steroids in the livestock industry, most people think of the growth promotants used in cattle feedlots. But now a feedgrade steroid called sarsaponin is making its way into hog production. A naturally occurring plant steroid, sarsaponin is available to swine producers in the formulated product, Micro-Aid.

According to University of Delaware extension livestock specialist Dr. Ken Kephart, Micro-Aid has been around for nearly 15 years. But distributors have been actively marketing it to hog producers only during the past year. Micro-Aid's selling points include improved gains and feed efficiency—claims which are based on research conducted at agricultural experiment stations at Purdue and North Carolina State universities.

The Purdue study was conducted by Dr. Jim Foster and involved five growing-finishing trials with a total of 717 hogs in both open front and total confinement facilities. In all of these experiments, pigs remained on test from about 60 to 210 pounds.

Kephart says the purpose of these trials was to find out if the



Studies at both Purdue and North Carolina State have shown the naturally occurring steroid, sarsaponin, to be an efficient meat producing supplement for market hogs.

product worked, and also to determine the optimum feeding level. In the first two trials Foster added zero, one, two and four ounces of Micro-Aid per ton of feed.

In both tests, performance peaked at the two-ounce rate. At this level, pigs on the Micro-Aid diets grew five to seven percent faster than the control group, with little or no change in feed ef-

iciency.

The next objective of the Purdue study was to determine whether pen density influenced the effect of Micro-Aid. So Foster allotted eight pigs per pen (9.6 square feet per head) or 10 pigs (7.7 square feet per head). At the lower density, animals getting the steroid again grew about six percent faster, with

(Turn to Page D4)

Robison elected first president of Pa. Limousin Assoc.

CARLISLE — The newly formed Pennsylvania Limousin Association elected James Robison of Olry as the first president of the group. The election was held Friday May 18, at a meeting of the board of directors. Cynthia Kreider, Waterford, was elected vice-president. Filling the post of secretary-treasurer was Robert Line, Jr., Carlisle. Richard McDonald, Shippensburg, was appointed news reporter.

Other members of the board are Robert Penney, Reading, and C.J. Peters, Mohnon. The members of the board of directors had been elected to that post at a general membership meeting April 7, 1984 at the Carlisle Livestock Market.

The purpose of the Association is to promote Limousin cattle in Pennsylvania, support breed activities, and help to improve and maintain the breed. Activities proposed for the new association were a spring sale, fall Limousin feeder calf and club calf sale, field day and Farm Show. A directory of the members is to be published. There is to be a logo contest for the group.

Anyone wishing additional information or submitting a logo for the contest should write or call: Pennsylvania Limousin Association, Robert Lane, Jr., Sec-Treas., 2070 Ritner Highway, Carlisle, PA. 17013. (717) 243-1281.

Pa. numbers up

U.S. sheep population at all-time low

UNIVERSITY PARK — According to Penn State extension ag. economist, H. Louis Moore, Pennsylvania's sheep numbers have increased six percent in the past year, despite a decrease in the number of sheep nationwide.


The inventory of all sheep and lambs in the U.S. on January 1, 1984 totalled 11.4 million head, down five percent from 12 million recorded a year earlier. Moore points out that this is the lowest inventory of sheep and lambs recorded since estimates were started in 1867. Except for slight increases in 1980 through 1982, there has been a long-term downward trend in sheep production in the U.S.

Moore states that the national cutback in numbers is apparently due mainly to sheep producers'

deteriorating net returns. The economist points out that lamb prices are highly responsive to beef prices, a segment of the livestock industry that has also been generally unprofitable in the last few years.

Estimates of costs and returns for sheep operations since 1977 show increasing costs while selling prices have dropped or remained steady at best. This has resulted in a net profit squeeze for sheep producers.

Moore predicts that lamb prices should increase in 1984, making the enterprise more profitable than in the past few years. Higher prices will result because of the sharp cut in sheep numbers and the expected cut in beef and pork production, combined with a much stronger general economy.



Livestock Ledger

By
Chester D. Hughes
Extension Livestock Specialist

Just recently, the Lancaster County Red Rose 4-H Beef Club held their annual steer branding session at the Melvin Kolb Holstein facility near Lancaster. Within three hours, 70 4-H club steers and 7 FFA project steers passed through the squeeze chute, receiving an official ear tag, the familiar "FS" brand and optional treatments, including a worm bolus, a growth stimulant implant, and an insecticide treated ear tag to control pesty flies during the summer.

In addition, a starting weight was recorded on each steer as he crossed the scales. This weight is used in calculating average daily gains at the end of the project and is helpful in planning feeding programs for the remainder of the project year.

Every 4-H and FFA member that hopes to exhibit at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January must have his steer officially branded with "FS" by June 1 of the preceding year. Therefore, the latter part of May becomes a busy time for beef club members throughout the state. Every county submits the number of steers branded to the state office and they determine, by a quota system, the number of steers that a county may exhibit at the Farm Show,

based on the number of steers branded.

Branding day makes for an excellent time to preview all of the county steers that are headed for Pennsylvania Farm Show, and former Lancaster Extension Agent, Max Smith was on hand to do just that! Max continues to be an inspiration for 4-H members involved with beef projects.

Many thanks go to Frey Bros. Manufacturing, Quarryville who donated the squeeze chute to the club to be used for branding steers in the years to come, and to Melvin and Dennis Kolb for the annual use of their facilities. Every year, Earl Umble, representing Young's, Inc., donates his services and products for implanting and deworming. This year Agway, Salunga provided the insecticide tags and donated an applicator to the club. Atlantic Breeders Cooperative again donated the liquid nitrogen for freeze branding, and Solanco FFA supplied the scales for weighing.

The Red Rose 4-H beef Club expresses many thanks and gratitude to all of those individuals and businesses who aid in making branding day successful.

The Cooperative Extension Service is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educational institution.