

## Who will be this year's champion livestock auctioneer?

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A check for \$1,000, a specially-designed diamond ring, merchandise prizes and the knowledge you're the best in your profession — that's what awaits the winner in the 1984 World Livestock Auctioneer Championship (WLAC).

"Prizes and public recognition are probably the most tangible parts of being the best livestock auctioneer in North America," said Championship Chairman Jerry Bales, of Huron, S.D. Bales

Continental Commission Co., Inc., will be the site of the 21st WLAC, on Friday, August 17.

But, Bales pointed out, there's more to winning the event than can be put in a bank, or pasted in a scrapbook. "There's the satisfaction of knowing you've been picked as the best practitioner of a very competitive business. Anyone who's ever attended an auctioneer championship knows how far some of the contestants have come to par-

ticipate, and how badly they all want to win."

The competition will be enhanced this year, as it was last year, with a preliminary and a final round. All contestants will take part in the morning preliminaries, selling cattle under actual sale conditions.

Then the judges, a panel of marketing businessmen, will select 15 finalists. They will compete Friday afternoon, with the winners announced at a barbecue and awards ceremony in Huron that evening.

In addition to the World Champion, a Reserve and Runner-Up World Champion are also

named. Contestants are judged on such qualities as vocal clarity and quality, and bid-catching ability.

The current Champion is Bud Knight, Billings, Mont., who won the title last summer in Dickson, Tenn. Once the world title is won, a contestant can no longer enter.

Knight, like other World Champions, was a veteran of previous Championships before he took the top trophy. And that "try again" spirit keeps the competitive level high, Bales said.

"The first person a contestant must convince of his talent is himself. We will have many former entrants try again this year, because they sincerely believe

they deserve the title — and that will make the event very exciting."

The WLAC is sponsored by Livestock Marketing Association, Kansas City, to honor the traditionally important role of the auctioneer in livestock merchandising.

Entrants must be a livestock auctioneer, at least 18 years of age, and sponsored by a livestock marketing business. The entry fee is \$250.

Entry forms and further information can be obtained from LMA, 301 East Armour Blvd., Kansas City, Mo., 64111, phone (816) 531-2235.

## Wool research to relocate

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Some of USDA's 125 senior scientists at the Eastern Regional Research Center (ERRC) will now focus on solving problems for the American wool industry, according to Dr. Mary Carter, associate administrator, Agricultural Research Service.

Carter made the announcement June 6 to sheep industry leaders at a meeting of the American Sheep Producers Council's Executive Committee in Washington, D.C.

Based in Philadelphia, ERRC is world-renowned for its research on leather and fibrous proteins, she said. Since much of the existing expertise and facilities can be applied to wool research, USDA thinks it most economical to do the research at ERRC. The U.S. Army's Natick laboratory had previously been considered.

USDA is currently developing projects for the \$400,000 available annually for wool research. At a meeting of 45 wool industry representatives on Feb. 1, more than 100 possible projects were outlined. Using a questionnaire, USDA has narrowed the list to two.

The number one priority is removal of foreign materials from raw wool, such as thistles, burrs and pigments, without resorting to a potentially damaging treatment known as carbonizing.

The second area ERRC will focus on is felting. Researchers will examine protein and polymer structure of wool in hopes of developing a better felting process that would allow more American wool to be used.

Until about two years ago, the wool research unit was based in Albany, Calif.

## Council board approves ACDI, AIC affiliations

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The board of directors of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives today approved affiliation of Agricultural Cooperative Development International (ACDI) and the American Institute of Cooperation (AIC) with NCFC.

The ACDI affiliation, previously approved by their membership, becomes effective immediately. The AIC affiliation agreement approved by NCFC will be presented to the AIC Board of Trustees at meetings in Bozeman, Montana, July 30.

Under the plan, ACDI would remain a separate organization for legal and tax purposes and would

maintain its own membership. However, it allows for organizational efficiencies, improved planning and better coordination of programs.

Agricultural Cooperative Development International (ACDI) responds to the needs of agricultural cooperatives, farm credit systems, and agriculturally-supportive agencies in developing countries. Its programs are designed to enhance economic development.

NCFC President Wayne A. Boutwell said this action is a great step forward for cooperative unity at the national level.

The American Institute of Cooperation (AIC) is the national education organization for agricultural cooperatives. Its programs are designed to help

acquaint educators, youth, young farmers, cooperative members and others with the role of cooperatives in the American business system.

If the plan is approved by their membership in July, AIC will be the third organization to affiliate with NCFC since early last year. The first was The Farm Credit Council, national trade association of cooperative agricultural lenders, which affiliated with NCFC in February 1983.

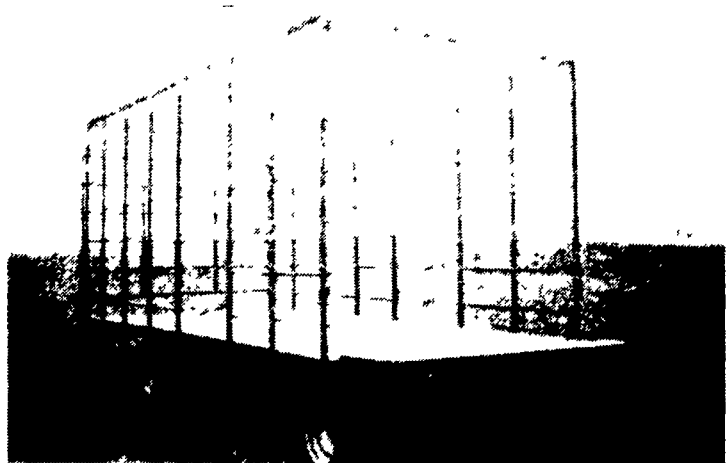
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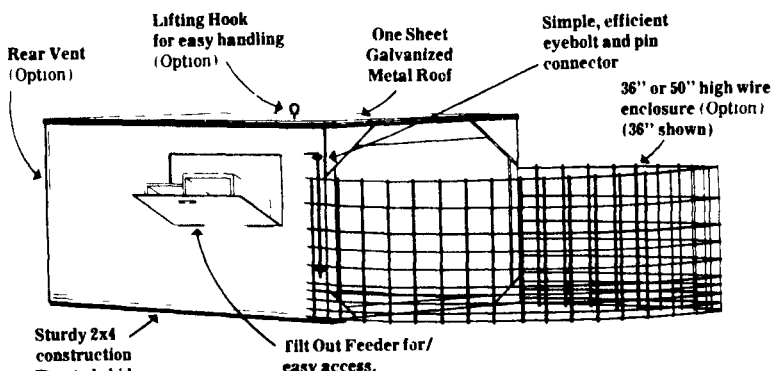
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