

# Livestock Ledger

By  
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Establishing an effective receiving program is the most important aspect of an overall feedlot health care plan. Effective programs help improve performance, cut death loss, reduce treatment costs and save time.

Maintaining accurate records is a critical aspect in the holding pen phase of any receiving program. This means recording the health condition of all cattle upon arrival at the feedlot. The reports should include the purchase weight, delivery weight, and number dead or down on the truck. These factors are extremely important in evaluating order buyers.

On arrival, unload the cattle into holding pens for 24-48 hours before processing. Generally, small holding pens are preferred which allow cattle only about 20 square feet of movement. This is especially important for recently weaned calves because the smaller pens inhibit a calf's tendency to roam and helps get them to the feed bunk sooner.

After cattle come off the truck, they should have immediate access to both hay and fresh water. Hay racks either along the feed bunk alley or along the fence line work best in holding pens.

Opinions on how to handle newly arrived cattle differ among farmers and veterinarians. Many believe that vaccinations, wor-

ming, implanting and surgical procedures should be done as soon as possible after arrival. Others believe that the cattle should be rested and acclimated for a period after arrival. I would certainly want to delay anything surgical such as castrating or dehorning.

On arrival, cattle should be introduced immediately to fresh hay and water. Feed bunks should be carefully cleaned to avoid feeding incoming cattle any wet, moldy feed. A good method of feed delivery would be to sprinkle hay, approximately five pounds per head, the length of the feed bunk and then put the starting ration, approximately one percent of the body weight, on top. This system forces cattle to work through the ration to reach the hay and usually gets them started eating a ration quicker. Research indicates that native grass type hay is more beneficial for starting new cattle on feed compared to legume hay types. The starting ration should contain 50-60 percent concentrate with 10-12 percent digestible protein. Virtually all cattle should receive this ration on arrival. Newly arrived cattle should be eating at least 3 percent of their body weight by five-eight days and should be on full feed by day 20. Good luck this season!

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## Lancaster Co. Charolais is NY champion

SYRACUSE, N.Y. - SMR O'Delle 3013, a Charolais heifer calf owned by Spring Meadows Ranch, Manheim, was recently named the junior and grand champion female at the New York State Fair.

Besides winning the high honors in the Empire State, the senior heifer calf was named reserve junior champion and reserve grand champion at the Kentucky State Fair; and junior champion at

the Ohio State Fair. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Heistand, Manheim, the Charolais heifer will continue to be shown at major stock shows across the country during the 1984-85 season.

## Building dedication to highlight Charolais event

KANSAS CITY, MO — The American-International Charolais Association and Charolais

breeders from across the nation are gearing up for a big 1984 American Royal weekend to be

held Nov. 1-4. That weekend will be highlighted by the dedication of the association's new national headquarters building located in Kansas City, Mo.

The dedication will take place at 11 a.m. on Nov. 3 at the building, located east of the KCI Airport along Interstate 29.

The weekend begins with a Cattleman's Seminar at the Hilton Airport Inn on Nov. 1, and concludes with the American Royal R.O.E. Charolais Show beginning at 9 a.m. on Nov. 4.

An added attraction will be two Charolais sales held in Kansas City on Nov. 2 and 3.

## Hog numbers down

HARRISBURG — Sept. 1 inventories of all hogs and pigs in the United States in the 10 states conducting quarterly hog surveys, is estimated at 42.8 million head, according to the Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. This is seven percent below last September but three percent more than September 1982.

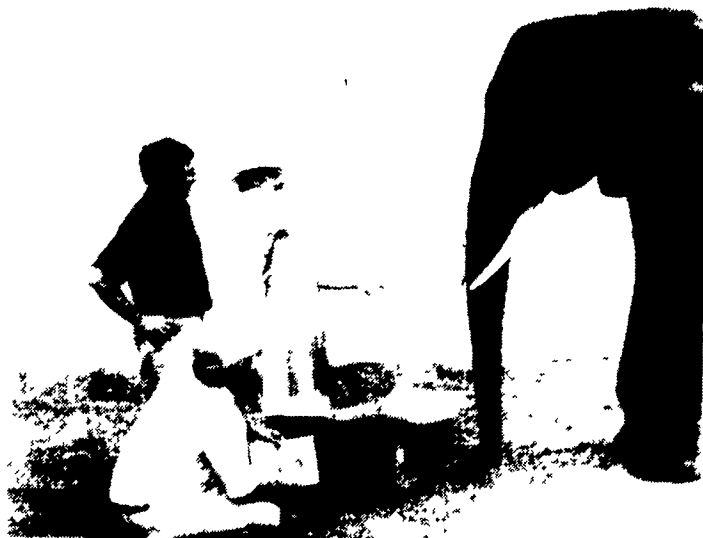
Estimates for the 10 quarterly states account for about 80 percent of the U.S. total inventory. The 10 quarterly states are Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina and Ohio.

Breeding inventory, at 5.52 million head, was five percent less than a year ago and one percent below 1982. Market hog inventory, at 37.3 million head, was seven percent below last year, but three percent more than 1982.

The June-August 1984 pig crop was 16.9 million head, four percent below last year, but four percent above 1982. There were 2.23 million sows that farrowed during June-August, a decrease of seven percent from a year ago, but one percent more than the same period two years ago. Sows farrowing

during June-August 1984 averaged 7.60 pigs per litter compared with 7.36 last year and 7.39 during the comparable period in 1982.

Hog producers in the 10 quarterly states intend to farrow 2.26 million sows during September-November of this year, five percent fewer than during the comparable period in 1983 and four percent fewer than two years ago.



It's a jumbo task, posing an elephant for the American Angus Association's new advertising campaign. Working with the elephant and the packing house worker model are Keith Evans (standing left) director of public relations for the American Angus Association and Bob Watkins, art director for Fletcher/Mayo/Associates. The dilemma dramatized by this photo is how to fit an "elephant-sized" steer into the standard beef packer's box. The campaign will address the problems of extreme size and inefficiency that plague the beef cattle industry today.

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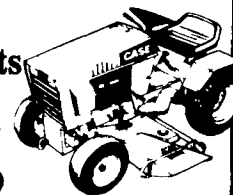
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