

Shorthorns score high marks in carcass contests

OMAHA, Nebr. — Steers carrying Shorthorn ancestry in their bloodlines are once again proving their carcass qualities throughout the nation this year. These carcass contests are being held in conjunction with shows on all levels, including state fairs and nationally recognized exhibitions.

Two young beef cattle producers have shown their steer projects to wins at both a state fair and a national 4-H beef cattle show.

A Shorthorn-Charolais steer owned by Angie Prather, Aberdeen, S.D., produced the grand champion carcass over all entries at the 1984 South Dakota State Fair held in Huron. The steer posted a live weight of 1,150 pounds, and produced a carcass weighing 746 pounds. The following statistics were also made available by the officials: backfat thickness-.25

inches; rib eye area-15.2 square inches; KPH (kidney-pelvic-heart fat)-3.0 per cent; and 53 per cent retail cuts. The carcass had a yield grade of 1.7, and a quality of low Choice.

A Shorthorn-Angus-Chianina steer shown by K.C. Beaulieu of Hinton, Ia., won over-all carcass honors at the 1984 Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Livestock Exhibition recently held in Omaha, Nebr. Weighing 1,192 pounds, the entry had a carcass weight of 788 pounds, and an average daily gain of 2.28 pounds. He had .3 inches of backfat, 1.5 per cent KPH, produced a rib eye measuring 19.3 square inches, and had 53 per cent retail cuts. He yield graded .349 and was a quality grade low Choice.

These two wins bring to light the fact that the Shorthorn crossbreeding program can

produce the quality carcasses profitable for the feedlot manager, and palatable for the consumer.

The first Shorthorn steer futurity will be held this fall at the 1984

North American International Livestock Exposition. A terminal show, the entries will compete in both live and carcass divisions. This event will take place on

Sunday, November 11, at 12:00 noon in Broadbent Arena on the Kentucky State Fairgrounds. Judging the show will be Dr. Gary Minish of Blacksburg, Va.

Aborting heifers on feed saves money

OMAHA, Nebr. — By aborting all pregnant heifers as they go into the feedlot, producers can gain an economic advantage of \$40 per head over non-aborted animals according to Alvin J. Edwards, DVM, Kansas State University.

In a study presented to the Academy of Veterinary Consultants Edwards reported, "The additional cost of feeding bred heifers in a feedlot represents a waste that is reflected in a lower dressing percent, higher treatment costs, and generally higher mortality due to dystocias and complicating metritis."

The results of the trial showed by aborting pregnant heifers on feed, an animal with a final live-weight of 1000 pounds would dress 40 pounds higher than the same size animal that was not aborted. At a carcass value of \$1 per pound, the aborted heifer would return \$40 over the bred heifer.

The study further looked at the performance of heifers aborted during early and late gestation. For those heifers aborted at four months or less, they had an average daily gain of 1.98 pounds over the total feeding period and dressed at 62.2 percent when slaughtered. However, heifers aborted at five months or more had only a 1.69 pound average daily gain (17 percent less) and dressed at 61.6 percent.

The study concluded: "The use of prostaglandins alone in heifers under four months pregnant and in combination with Dexamethasone in heifers that are pregnant five months or more can be utilized successfully to improve the ef-

iciency of heifer feeding. Using abortifacients in feedlot heifers should be considered a management tool to improve efficiency in the feedlot and must be used in conjunction with good management."

Disabled workshop set

SALISBURY, MD. — Farm workers with physical or mental disabilities should set March 4 and 5 aside next year. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Workshop for the Disabled in Rural and Agricultural Communities will be held on those dates at the Civic Center in Salisbury, Md.

The workshop is aimed at bringing rural workers with physical or mental disabilities together for instruction and ideas. Current information will also be available on useful modifications of farm equipment for disabled farm workers.

For disabled workers who live alone, the workshop will address the resources available for in-

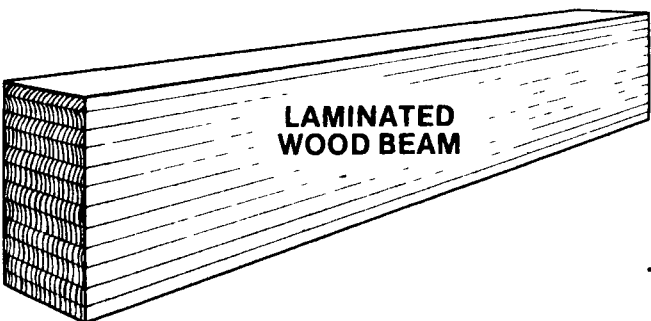
dependent living. For workers living with others, the workshop will also deal with individual and family stress situations they encounter.

Rehabilitation specialists can learn techniques that can help disabled workers stay on the farm. A self-help group will be arranged so workshop participants can keep in contact.

Additional information will be distributed when the workshop plans are finalized. Anyone interested should contact the Pennsylvania Agricultural Safety Council, 204 Agricultural Engineering Building, University Park, PA, 16802, or phone (814) 865-7685.



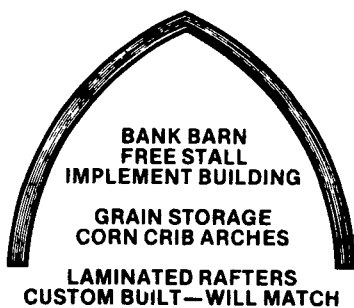
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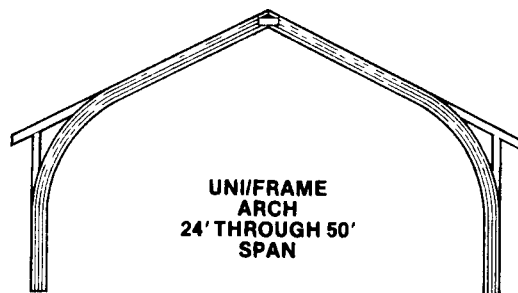
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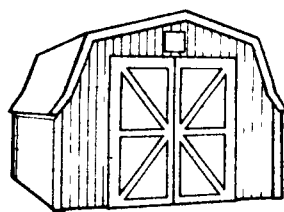
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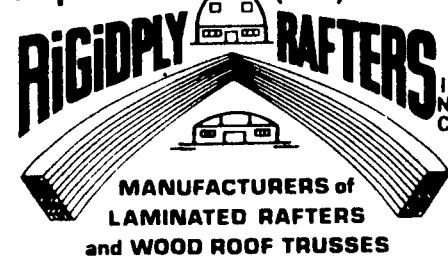


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