

Forage Superbowl winners announced

MADISON — High quality forages, some of them supporting more than 2,500 pounds of milk per ton of dry matter fed, took top honors at the WORLD'S FIRST Forage Analysis SUPERBOWL. The contest was held in conjunction with World Dairy Expo.

The winning hay entry, submitted by Raymond Berner, Seymour, IA, had a crude protein (CP) of 24.4 percent, acid detergent fiber (ADF) of 26.5 percent, neutral detergent fiber (NDF) of 36.6 percent and dry matter digestibility of 68 percent. With his winning entry, Berner receives one year's free use of a Sperry New Holland Model 999 Haybine Mower-Conditioner.

Dave Koester, Dakota, IL, won the haylage division with an entry that contained 22.5 percent CP, 23.4 percent ADF, 32.3 percent NDF and had a dry matter digestibility of 71 percent. Koester receives a Clay Ring-Drive Silo Unloader.

Pete Lathrop, Sherburne, NY, was the second-place winner in the hay division and Elmer Hanson, Elk Mound, WI, was the second-

place finisher in the haylage division. Both receive one year's free use of a Brillion Sure-Stand Seeder and two bags of alfalfa seed.

LaVerne Fisher, Oxford, WI, was the third place finisher in the hay division. He receives eight bags of alfalfa seed, a Northwest Ag Consultants hay coring tool, a Madison Farm Structures forage tester and one bag of Nitragin Pelinoc inoculant. Rick Roberts, Whitney, NE, was the third place haylage winner. He receives a year's use of a Gehl Company self-unloading forage box and one bag of Nitragin Pelinoc inoculant.

The Forage Superbowl was sponsored by HOLSTEIN WORLD, the University of Wisconsin Extension Service, Wisconsin DHIC and World Dairy Expo. It was supported by 40 commercial companies.

There were 292 total entries in the contest, according to Dr. Dwayne Rohweder, UW-Extension agronomist, with 65 of them invited to send samples for a second round of judging at World Dairy Expo.

Judging was done on the basis of the cow as the consumer of the forage, explains Rohweder.

"You can have tons and tons of forage dry matter, but it won't be of any value if the dairy cow won't eat it and produce milk and meat," he says.

Judging was primarily based on nutritional content and palatability of the forage using Near Infrared Spectroscopy. In addition, 20 percent of the score was based on visual aspects of the forage such as color, odor and freedom from molds. Another 10 percent of the score was based on the amount of milk one ton of the forage would produce based on a computer-projected ration and five percent of the score came from on-farm information.

"We were very pleased with the level of quality and the number of entries in this first-ever, international forage analysis competition," says Stanley Bird, HOLSTEIN WORLD vice president of marketing.

Two-thirds of the final samples contained crude protein levels

greater than 22 percent. Nearly half of them had dry matter digestibilities of more than 66 percent. If cows were fed only these forages without any grain, dry matter intake would average 41 pounds per day with enough energy to support 51 pounds of milk, says Rohweder.

In a balanced ration, forages of this quality could support more than 2,500 pounds of milk per ton of dry matter fed. The value of the forage, based on the amount of milk produced, would be more than \$300 per ton.

"If all dairymen could produce forages of this quality, they could

markedly increase their milk production efficiency and decrease their cost of production," says Rohweder.

Brad Rugg, executive vice president of World Dairy Expo, says the Forage Superbowl added a new dimension to Expo. Dairymen attending had the opportunity to compare these forages to forages they produce on their own farms.

With the contest being so well accepted this year, plans are already underway to conduct a second, even larger contest next year, concludes Bird.

Grain meeting on Dec. 6

DOVER, Del. — A meeting on grain marketing strategies for Delaware farmers and grain dealers will be held Dec. 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Sheraton Inn in Dover, Del.

Main emphasis of the program will be on disposing of the rest of the 1984 grain crop, with some mention of preliminary indications for the 1985 crop. The meeting is

being sponsored by the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service.

A \$5 fee will be charged. Deadline for registration is November 28. For further information or to register, contact extension marketing specialist Carl German at 230 Townsend Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19717-1303 (451-1125).

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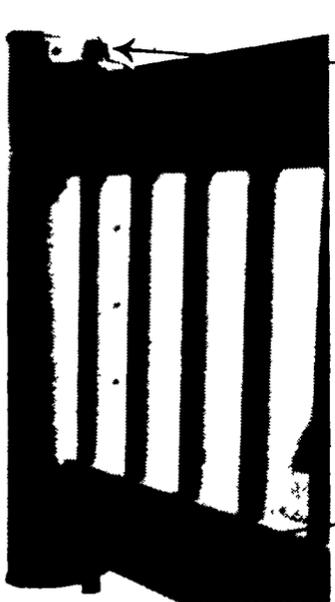


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Lamb standards changed

WASHINGTON, D.C.

— A U.S. Department of Agriculture official has announced changes in U.S. grade standards for slaughter lambs, yearlings and sheep, effective Nov. 26.

Paul M. Fuller, a livestock official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the changes align the standards with previously revised standards for carcasses of lamb, yearling mutton and mutton.

The primary changes in the carcass standards — requiring only one 'break joint' and dropping feathering (streaks of fat) as a grade factor — are not discernible in live animals. Therefore, quality requirements for slaughter lambs, yearlings and sheep did not require revision, Fuller said.

Consistent with other carcass changes, the changes for slaughter animals will standardize the quality and conformation (shape) compensations, add descriptions of degrees of muscling associated with each grade, and drop the cull grade for slaughter lambs and yearlings, he said.

The changes are not expected to affect the number of lambs in the prime, choice and good grades, Fuller said.

USDA proposed the grade changes Feb. 21. The final rule is scheduled to be published in the Oct. 26 Federal Register.