

One-half a Texas Shorthorn brings \$40,000

FORT WORTH, Tex. — The 1985 version of the Cowtown Classic Sale, sponsored by the Texas Shorthorn Association, put special emphasis on offering embryo donor caliber females and flushes and embryos out of popular females. A huge crowd gathered for the event on the Fort Worth Stock Show grounds that was held in conjunction with the 1985 National Shorthorn Show and annual meeting of the American Shorthorn Association. The sale saw very active bidding on the few select lots offered.

Topping the sale at \$40,000 (½ interest) — Hilltop Ayatollies 312* was consigned by Buchholz Bros. Shorthorns, Bardwell, Tx. This powerfully, big-framed, March '83

daughter of Ayatollah *ar has been a top tanbark contender through two show seasons. She was the 1984 Reserve All-American spring heifer calf and had won the tough Indiana State Fair this past



summer. She sold to Mike Green & Associates of Ceresco, Ne.

Second top seller at \$35,000 — The highly heralded Sutherland Rosewood 282 was consigned by Hillcrest Farm-Sutherland Shorthorns, Prospect, Ky. This very impressive January '83, solid red daughter of Highfield Rathcannon, Mick, has also built quite an impressive show record including Reserve Senior Champion

at the World Shorthorn Show. She sold bred, due in March, to the service of two-time National Champion, GM Irish Special. The partnership of Buchholz Bros. Shorthorns; Masterson Ranch, Guthrie, Tx.; and Jamma Ranch, Bardwell, Tx., were the buyers.

Selling at \$10,000 — Mill Brook Nita 80 x and one confirmed embryo was consigned by Mill Brook Shorthorns, Fredericktown, Oh. This powerful, red, polled female was the Grand Champion at the 1982 National Western and is an April '80 daughter of Mill Brook Ransom G-Nine 2975. Dayspring Shorthorns, David Castle, Eldora, Ia., was the buyer.

The sale's eight females sold for \$136,900, for an average of \$17,113 per head. Two embryos averaged \$5,275 each, and one flush sold for \$4,000. Eleven lots sold for \$151,450 for a sale average of \$13,768.

The sale's manager was Cagwin Cattle Services, Inc., with Bruce Brooks serving as auctioneer.

Prepare mares now for breeding

NEWARK, Del. — A successful horse breeding program depends on a properly managed and conditioned mare.

Proper feeding and nutrition, a sound preventive medicine program and adequate exercise are of utmost importance in conditioning, according to University of Delaware extension equine specialist Dr. Mel Reitnour.

A preventive medicine program should include immunization against diseases, prevention and control of internal parasites, and proper care of feet, teeth and mouth. Worm mares every six to eight weeks with recommended anthelmintics (wormers) to prevent and control internal parasites such as bots, strongyles, ascarids, and pinworms.

The specialist says it is also advisable to vaccinate mares against tetanus, eastern and western encephalomyelitis, and possibly upper respiratory problems (such as rhinopneumonitis) which are associated with particular areas.

Trim and balance the mare's feet about every eight weeks. And check her teeth at least once a year for sharp edges on the outside upper and inside lower premolars and molars. These sharp edges should be filed off (floated). Also look for and treat jaw abnormalities such as monkey or parrot mouth.

Provide the mare with a well balanced grain ration containing approximately 15 percent crude protein and about 75 percent total

digestible nutrients per ton plus high quality alfalfa or alfalfa-grass hay. If good quality roughage is not available, she may benefit from a vitamin and mineral supplement as well.

All mares should be turned out, lunged, ridden or driven for adequate exercise, Reitnour says. The highest conception rates occur when mares are in excellent physical condition—neither too fat nor too thin. It's fairly well established that mares in a weight gaining condition going into the breeding season will conceive more easily than those which are extremely over or underweight.

Starting the mare now on a sound management program so that she's in topnotch physical condition at breeding will help her to get in foal.

Blue & Gold Sale set for Mar. 16

ABBOTTSTOWN — The Pennsylvania Polled Hereford Association has announced the 2nd Annual Blue & Gold Sale, which will be held on Saturday, March 16, 1985 at the Ag Arena at State College, PA at 3 p.m.

The following farms have consigned females to the sale offering: Spring Bottom Farms, Fairfield, PA; Shochary Ridge Farm, New Tripoli, PA; JDH Polled Herefords, Dover, PA; LuRose Estates, Hagerstown, MD; Salunga Acres, Mount Joy, PA; High Hopes Polled Herefords, Fairfield, PA; and Spring Run Farm, Abbottstown, PA.

Judging of the cattle will begin at noon and will be done by Terry Shearer of Abbottstown.

Auctioneer is Ken Brubaker of Brubaker Livestock Marketing, West Chester, PA. Catalogs may

be obtained from Craig Peterson, Chairman, P.O. Box 62, Abbottstown, PA 17301. Telephone (717) 259-0250.



Sen. Helfrick proposes rabies legislation

HARRISBURG — In a measure aimed at helping to curb the spread of rabies in Pennsylvania, State Senator Edward Helfrick (R-27) is proposing legislation which would require dog owners to have their animals vaccinated against rabies and present proof of vaccination when obtaining dog licenses.

Helfrick, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, said the outbreak of rabies in the state, particularly in southcentral Pennsylvania, is causing a great deal of public

concern and calls for extraordinary precautions to protect people and animals. The number of cases in 1984 more than doubled the previous year's cases, according to a Department of Agriculture report.

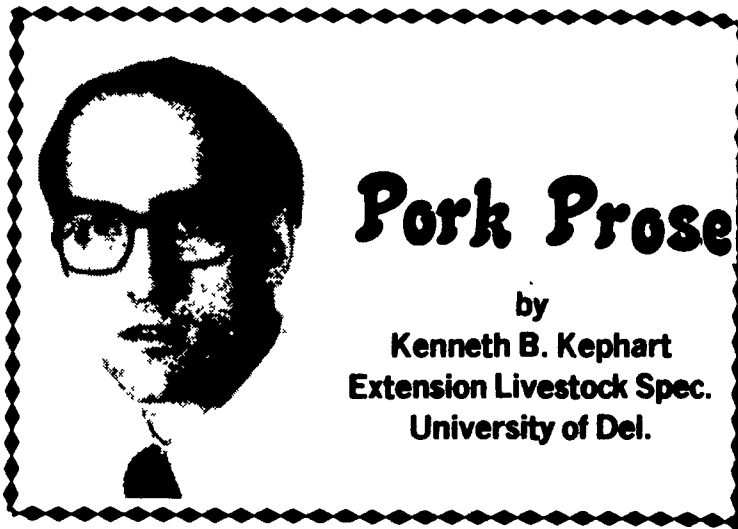
"This is a relatively easy and inexpensive way to help protect families and their pets from a dread disease," Helfrick said. "Other states which have a rabies problem have already instituted such a requirement."

Rabies vaccinations have a protective lifespan of three years. Therefore, a veterinary certificate

would be valid for annual licenses for three consecutive years. Dog owners who have obtained lifetime licenses would be required to present certification only at three year intervals.

The Department of Agriculture documented 243 rabies cases in Pennsylvania between January 1 and September 30, 1984, as opposed to 116 during the same period in 1983.

"Because of the severe consequences of rabies, it is imperative the General Assembly acts swiftly on protective measures," Helfrick concluded.



Pork Prose

by
Kenneth B. Kephart
Extension Livestock Spec.
University of Del.

It's not hard to figure out why artificial insemination hasn't caught on in the hog industry — especially when you consider the fact that many producers don't even practice hand breeding. AI takes time and patience. To be good at it you have to be a perfectionist. And under practical conditions using AI will at best leave you with somewhat lower fertility rates. So all many folks see is that, for all the effort, there's a lot of room for failure.

But that's not the bottom line. For all your effort, you can be using proven sires. For all your effort, you can close your herd and eliminate the risk of buying a new disease with your next boar. For all your effort, AI has real potential for saving you money. That's the bottom line.

Am I suggesting that you get rid of all your boars and breed everything artificially? No. For most people that would be ridiculous. What I am suggesting is this: Find the sows in the top five percent of your herd. Then breed them AI and derive some or all of your herd boars from these litters.

It's a scheme that could eliminate the complaint I hear most about new boars — "I paid a lot of money for him and he won't work." Sure, breeding a sow artificially may cost you \$40 or \$50. But from each of these AI sows you'll have your pick of three or four boars.

So the cost of these new boars is much less than you'd pay from a seedstock producer. You'll be raising them under your conditions, not someone else's. And you can choose the most aggressive ones of the bunch.

What's the secret to making AI work? Realize from the start that it's not foolproof. You have to handle the semen properly or you might as well pour it on the floor. You have to do a good job of heat-checking and then inseminate at the right time. And you've got to be patient.

TIMING THE INSEMINATION — The best time to breed or inseminate is just prior to ovulation, so you're a lot better off to breed early than late. Once the eggs are released, they'll live six to eight hours. But sperm, once in the female, will live about one day. If you can get the sperm into the oviducts just before the eggs get there, you're in business.

When will a sow ovulate? About 40 hours after she first stands for the boar. So to know what's going on, you should be checking heat twice a day. If a sow just came into heat this morning, it would be OK to wait until tomorrow for the first service and then 12 hours later for

the second service. But let's say she "almost" stood yesterday afternoon and you find her in heat this morning. Then you'd better make the first service this afternoon, with the second service tomorrow morning.

What happens if she's one of those that stays in heat for three or four days? According to Dr. Dan Hagen, who does research in swine reproduction at Penn State University, it makes little difference. "Estrogen levels in the blood will peak just before a sow comes in heat. And it's these high estrogen levels that trigger ovulation," he says. "So I would expect a sow to ovulate about 40 hours after she first shows heat — whether she stays in heat two days or four days."

This means there's little sense in continuing to service a sow after she's been inseminated twice.

What about the gilt that stays in heat for only one day? Using Hagen's logic, she'll still ovulate about the same time. But it's my recommendation that you breed gilts the first chance you get — since the heat period is so short-lived.

SEMEN HANDLING — Here are some things to remember when using semen. Keep it clean. Handle gently. And change its temperature slowly. If you buy semen commercially, they'll give you specific instructions on handling. Follow them to the letter.

When you inseminate, it's best to have a boar close by so that the sow will stand properly. There's more reason for this than saving you the grief of chasing her around the pen. When the sow assumes a rigid stance, contractions in the uterus will quickly move the sperm up the tract. Even when you know a sow's in heat, if she won't settle down there may be no uterine contractions.

Inject the semen slowly. You're working with a limited volume. If you force it in too quickly and half of it leaks out on your boot, you may have to the job over again in three weeks.

Where should you buy semen? From anyone who can sell you a quality product that will improve your herd. It could be a commercial company. It could be a seedstock producer. Or it could be your neighbor. Remember that you'll get a better conception rate with fresh semen than with frozen.

Artificial insemination isn't for everybody. It certainly has some drawbacks. But the technology is here to make it work for a lot of producers. If you're interested, read the fact sheet in the Pork Industry Handbook. And talk to the people using AI now. You might find it worth a try.

LIVESTOCK LATEST

