

Polled Hereford Bull Tops NY Performance Tested Sale

ITHACA, N.Y. — A Polled Hereford bull by BT CL Domino 445M consigned by Jerylin Farm, Dan Mickelson of Newfield topped the New York Performance Tested Bull Sale May 2 at Ithaca with a price of \$2,600. The buyer was Joel Getman of LaFargeville.

The 46 "Branded for Per-

formance" bulls sold by John Spiker of West Virginia during the fast-paced sale before a capacity crowd grossed \$53,887 with an unofficial sale average of \$1,171.20. The bulls on test and those in the sale had achieved a record level of performance with an average daily gain of 3.94 pounds on the 140

day performance test.

The 12 Polled Hereford bulls in the sale had the highest breed average, \$1,360. The second highest selling Polled Hereford bull and one of the three bulls in the sale to be struck off at \$1,800 each was an Enforcer son consigned by Lamington River Farm of Far Hills, N.J. The buyer was Windabrae Farm of Connecticut.

The lone Salers bull in the sale, a son of Jet Star 28P, consigned by Cel-O-Lok Farm of Locke recorded the second highest breed average at \$1,350. The buyer of this, the first Salers bull to be sold at auction in the Northeast, was Robert Sullivan of Dundee.

The 16 Angus bulls averaged \$1,206.25 with two bulls sharing honors as the top selling Angus at \$1,800 each. They were a Prince of Wildwood 1075 son consigned by

Culvert Brook Farm of Hamilton bought by Curtis Kunder of Wallkill for Watchtower Farms and a Claybrook Force son consigned by Drover Hill Farm of Earlville and bought by Robert Butler of Pine City.

A Meadowview Farm of Frankfort Charolais bull was the top gaining bull on the 140-day test with an average daily gain of 4.74 pounds. A son of Silver Creek Summit, this bull topped the five Charolais bulls in the sale at \$1,400. The buyer was Joe Castaldo of Oswego. The Charolais breed average was \$1,030.

The lone Red Angus bull in the sale was a King Kong son consigned by Sunrise Farms of Auburn and bought at \$1,100 by Dale Monteith of Shedden, Ont. Canada.

The 10 Simmentals in the sale

had a breed average of \$977.50. Wheatley Farms of Stanfordsville had the top two selling Simmental bulls at \$1,200 each. Both were sons of Generation III and the buyers were James and Charles Lee of Frewsburg and Roland Wolford of Greene for the South Central Resource Conservation & Development Area (RC&D).

The single Shorthorn bull in the sale was a son of Lazy D Irish Jack, consigned by Stony Brook Farms of Locke. The buyer at \$875 was Dennis Greene of Youngstown.

Volume buyers were Watchtower Farms and the South Central RC&D. Successful buyers were from Pennsylvania, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Canada as well as from all areas of New York State.

Dates Set for Elections of Pork Producers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated July 7-11 for the statewide elections of individual pork producers for appointment to an industry-wide committee that will administer a promotion, research and consumer information order for pork.

Paul Fuller, a marketing official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said pork producers across the country are encouraged to vote in the elections. Candidates receiving the highest number of votes in each state will be eligible for appointment by the secretary of agriculture to that state's allotted positions on the National Pork Producers Delegate Body.

"The Delegate Body, consisting of approximately 165 producers, including two or more members representing each of the 50 states and four importers, will be responsible for administering all aspects of the pork order," said

Fuller.

Voting will take place at all local county Extension offices during regular business hours. Pork producers can vote in any county in their home state after signing a voter registration list certifying that they are pork producers in that state.

Pork producers are urged to vote in person at their local county Extension office. If voting in person is not possible, an absentee voting packet containing a ballot and registration form may be obtained from Jim Epstein, National Pork Producers Election, P.O. Box 23762, Washington, D.C. 20026-3762; telephone (202) 475-5407. Absentee ballots must be postmarked by July 11, and received at the above address no later than July 18.

Votes will be tallied locally by officials of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and the results will be forwarded to the secretary of agriculture.

Entries Due for Lamb and Wool Festival

STATE COLLEGE — Entries will be accepted until May 31 for the second annual Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Festival, July 8-10 at the new Ag Arena, Pennsylvania State University.

Commercial and craft exhibitors are invited to show and sell their lamb and wool wares at the festival, which is held in conjunction with the Central Pennsylvania Arts Festival in State College.

Exhibitors, some from as far away as Maine and Kentucky, will show sheep pottery, spinning and weaving equipment, sheep skin fashions and rugs, original wool garments, wall hangings, shawls and "art-to-wear" fashions. Wool yarns (hand-dyed and natural), T-shirts, wooden sheep, fleecy sheep and over-stuffed sheep also will be available.

During the three day festival, continuous activities will feature lamb cutting and cookery (with tasty samples for all), sheep dog demonstrations, wool spinning and weaving and sheep shearing and trimming.

Contests also will be held with most items available for sale. The competition will include white and natural colored fleeces, sheep art and photography, wool crafts (wall hangings to accessory apparel) and 4-H and FFA exhibits.

The state Lamb Cook-Off Contest will be held July 9. Plenty of delicious food will be available, featuring many lamb dishes.

Festival hours are: July 8, Noon to 7 p.m.; July 9, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and July 10, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission and parking are free. The Ag Arena is located behind Beaver Stadium off Fox Hollow Road, State College.

National Shorthorn Show

OMAHA, Nebr. — Plans have been finalized for the 1986 National Junior Shorthorn Heifer Show and National Shorthorn Youth Conference to be held July 9-12 in Stillwater, Ok. The Payne County Fairgrounds will serve as the site for the annual summer event where a large crowd of young cattlemen, parents and spectators will gather to watch the national junior exhibition of heifers and steers from across this nation and Canada.

Several special items have been planned to make this year's event even more special. The National Shorthorn Youth Conference will be held July 9, 10 and 11, with educational seminars planned. Dr. Milton Wells of Reproduction Enterprises, Stillwater, Ok., will provide a live embryo transfer demonstration and Twig Marston of WalMar Farms, Canton, Ks., will provide a fitting and showing clinic for participants up to the age of twelve. An afternoon program by the animal science department staff of Oklahoma State University

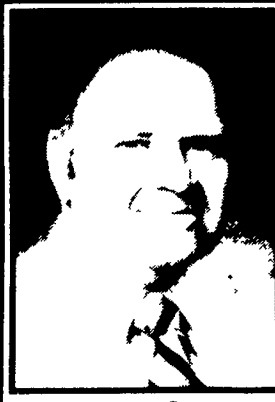
will also be provided.

In addition to these events will be state junior association competitions, a volleyball tournament and barbecue, dances and mixers. Capping off the National Shorthorn Youth Conference will be the annual awards banquet of the American Junior Shorthorn Association.

The 1986 National Junior Shorthorn Heifer Show will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 12. Knic Overpeck, Clinton, Ind., and Dr. Brad Skaar, Iowa State

University, Ames, Iowa, will place the classes of heifers, purebred and appendix prospect and market steers, and select the champions. They will also select the national champion and reserve champion showmen.


Additional information on the events and hotel accommodations is available by contacting the American Junior Shorthorn Association, Sherry Olsen, 8288 Hascall St., Omaha, Ne. 68124, phone: 402-393-7200.



Flock Forum

by
Clair Engle

Penn State Extension Sheep Specialist



Developing Sheep Pastures

The first requirement for good pasture growth is good soil fertility. Legumes will not establish and compete with most grasses unless soil pH is 6 or higher. In some areas, phosphorus or other nutrients may be deficient. Most eastern pasturelands require lime to increase calcium carbonate levels for a higher pH. If legumes are not included in the pasture mix, optimum grass growth and animal performance will not be possible unless an expensive supplement nitrogen fertilizer is added.

The best grass-legume mixes for eastern pastures include bluegrass, orchardgrass, perennial rye, or fescue with ladino clover. If hay production is important, orchardgrass, perennial rye, or timothy would be better grasses and red clover may be the best clover if it is adapted to the area. The pasture mix should include a minimum of 30 percent legumes — 40 to 50 percent is more desirable. In some areas of the east, birdsfoot trefoil and lespedeza are good pasture legumes. Large quantities of legumes consumed — clovers in particular — at breeding time can negatively affect ovulation rate and conception. Pastures being used during these periods should contain less than 50 percent legumes.

Fescue can be a good forage for sheep if properly managed, or it can be of little or no value if allowed to get too tall and mature. Most of the older established fescue pastures are infected with an endophyte fungus that reduces performance at breeding and lowers lamb growth rates. Fescue is an especially good grass for high traffic areas such as pasture lanes, and small outside paddocks.

We know that alfalfa reaches peak nutrient content and quality at first bud formation and should be cut for hay at no later than 10 percent bloom. Every day that cutting is delayed results in declining nutrient content and quality. The same principle applies to grasses and clovers.

Pasture growth and forage quality and palatability will remain at peak levels if harvested every 28 to 35 days. This principle dictates the pasture-rotation cycle in the pasture-management program.

A system used successfully involves rotating six pastures every 4 to 5 days. The pasture must be grazed or mowed to a 2 to 3 inch height. In the spring when growth is rapid, rotate only three of four pastures; harvest the remaining pasture for hay. Once the pastures cut for hay have recovered, graze them and cut some of the other pastures for hay. This process should be completed in June; the sheep can then be returned to the six-pasture rotation program. Enough sheep, or sheep and cattle, must be used to uniformly graze the pasture to less than 3 inches in the time desired.

The benefits from this system are many, but the major ones are:

- Increased pasture and animal production. Stocking rates, once the producer learns how to manage the system, will at least double those of conventional two or three pasture rotation schemes.

- Intensive, short-duration grazing reduces selective grazing and helps maintain stands of the desired grass and legumes species.

- Significant reductions in internal parasite problems also become very evident, not to mention the reduced treatment costs.

Fencing requirements increase with added pastures. Electric fences are less costly than the conventional types and work well

once the sheep become familiar with them.

A 20 to 30 percent increase in annual growth of cool-season grasses occurs from late August through October. This growth, if properly managed, may be adequate for ensuring lamb growth and ewe flushing. Sheep can be supplemented by fall grazing on winter wheat or rye, turnips or rape.

Some late fall grazing for gestating ewes is possible from winter wheat or rye, turnips, rape, stock piled pastures or crop residues. Corn stalks and soybean stubble will provide 200 to 600 grazing days per acre for ewes, depending on the amount of crop residue, and weather conditions.

Following are some brief comments on establishing some of the mentioned forage crops. Contact your local Extension office for more specific information and assistance in seed varieties, soil fertility, and recommended cultivating practices.

Winter wheat or rye — Drill 60 to 70 lbs. seed per acre into 7 or 8-inch rows in a prepared seedbed. The amount of fertilizer will depend upon the results of the soil test. Plant in early September for grazing by mid-October. You should get 300 to 700 sheep — grazing days per acre from fall to early spring.

Turnips — Broadcast 1.5 to 2 lbs. seed per acre, then cultipack in a prepared seedbed; or no-till drill 3 lbs. seed per acre in sod or stubble. You may need to spray 0.5 pint paraquat per acre in pasture seedings to retard pasture growth until turnips are established. The amount of fertilizer will depend upon the results of the soil test. Plant in early August for grazing from October until the first hard freeze. You should get 1,200 to 2,000 sheep-grazing days per acre.

Rape — Plant from April to September, to 50 to 60 days in advance of expected grazing needs. Broadcast and cultipack, or drill 8 to 10 lbs. seed per acre into a prepared seedbed. The amount of fertilizer again will depend upon the soil test results. You should get 1,200 to 1,500 sheep-grazing days per acre.

The current Pennsylvania State University, Extension Agronomy Guide available at your local Extension office can help determine which crops will perform best under your specific soil and weather conditions.

Coming Sheep Events

June 6 & 7 -	Washington Co. Sheep Field Day, Washington, Pa.
July 8, 9, 10 -	Pennsylvania Lamb & Wool Festival, State College, Pa.
July 11 & 12 -	PSWGA Keystone Ram & Ewe Show & Sale, State College, Pa.
August 2 -	PDA Performance Tested Ram & Invitational Ewe Sale, State College, Pa.
August 19-21 -	Ag Progress Days, Rock Sprgs. Res. Station, Penn Furnace, Pa.
October 2-6 -	1986 Keystone International Livestock Show, Harrisburg, Pa.