

## Agricultural Events At Eastern States

Farmers and city dwellers alike can come to take part in the "farm experience" at the Eastern States Exposition which runs September 10-21 in West Springfield, MA.

For 65 years, The Big E has honored its commitment to agriculture by featuring continuous agricultural exhibits, contests and livestock events throughout the fair.

The livestock show now features competition for 25 breeds of livestock, including, several breeds of sheep, beef and dairy cattle, horses, hogs and dogs. There are also market shows for hogs, lambs and beef cattle. The lambs and beef cattle are sold in carcass sales after the shows.

The Milking Shorthorn Dairy Cattle Association and the Jersey Dairy Cattle Association have selected the 1986 Big E for the site of their Eastern Regional show.

Other livestock show events include the handmade woolen articles competition, fleece judging, a sheep to shawl contest, shearing contests, and a spinning bee. The lead-line contest, where youngsters show their prize sheep while modeling hand-made wool garments, always draws a crowd.

Another popular event is the working steer contest, a timed event in which youths maneuver their hitched animals around various obstacles. The jackpot steer contest and the dairy cattle

costume contest round off the competitive action.

The new "Dairy Education Center" in the Young Building will feature cow milking, dairy products, and question and answer sessions daily. If the more basic grunt and grind of pulling events appeals to you, come and see some of the finest pulling teams of oxen, horses and ponies in the Northeast that will be featured in competitions during the fair.

Non-livestock events include a produce show featuring giant pumpkin and giant squash contests. A glimpse of Christmas comes to the fair with the popular Northeast region Christmas tree and wreath exhibit. The trees and

wreaths will be judged and left on display during the 12-day fair.

Youth activities have always been an important part of The Big E. Several thousand members of the 4-H and Future Farmers of America organizations will be exhibiting and competing in

various events throughout the fair. The competitive events are designed to test the knowledge and skills of the contestants in areas of agri-business and agriculture.

This year's Big E expects to attract over one million visitors during its 12 day run.

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Like so many good things, the ice cream soda was invented by chance. Robert M. Green, a concessioner at the Franklin Institute Exposition in Philadelphia in October 1874, gets credit for its creation.

Mr. Green was exhibiting a soda fountain - the popular drink of the time being a mixture of sweet cream, syrup, and carbonated water. Running out of sweet cream he hurriedly substituted some vanilla ice cream - thereby launching a whole new fashion in sipping.

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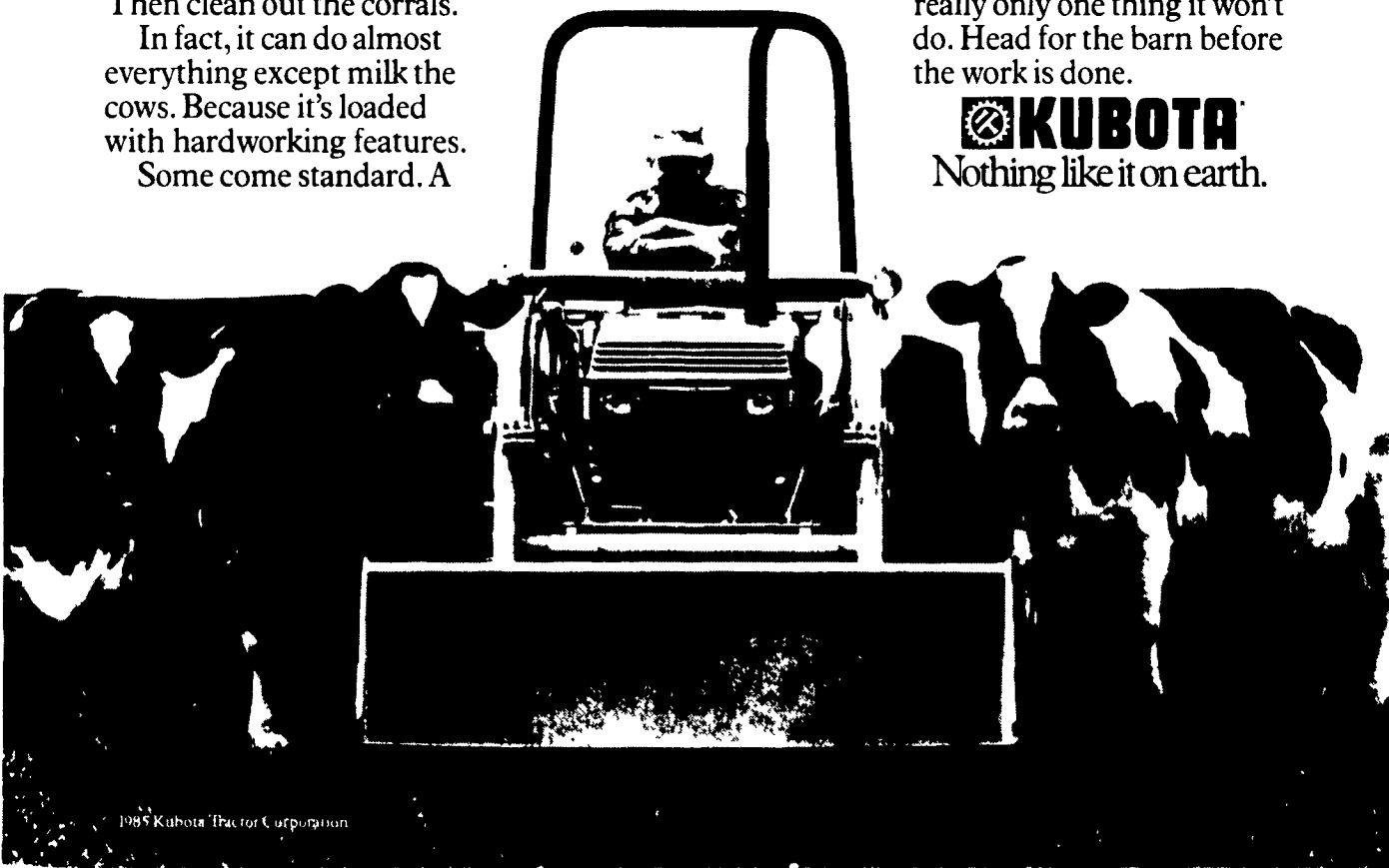
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