

Lycoming Livestock Auction Benefits Drought-Stricken Farmers

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HUGHESVILLE — Beef, lambs, and particularly swine brought tall prices at the Lycoming County Youth Livestock Sale held July 18, at the Fairgrounds in Hughesville.

Seven beef animals, 41 lambs, and 21 hogs were sold at above average prices. The grand champion market hog was sold for \$6.10 per pound, almost 10 times its normal market value.

For the fifth consecutive year the grand champion steer was purchased by John Fritz of Sunset Ice Cream, Williamsport. The 1309-pound entry sold for \$1.47 per pound which made a total purchase price of \$1,930.78.

Fritz was the sale's biggest spender, purchasing three champions and one additional animal for a total price of \$4,044.

In a surprise move to benefit drought-stricken North Carolina farmers, Fritz offered the grand champion steer for resale at the auction. All profits would be used to buy a truckload of hay to be shipped to North Carolina.

By the time the steer was resold, the effort to help the North Carolina farmers had snowballed. Shirn's Auto Dealership, Williamsport, donated a truck and driver's time; Valley Petroleum, Williamsport, donated fuel; and Scott Kepner of Kepner Farm Supply, Muncy donated an ad-

ditional load of hay with the stipulation that 4-H'ers help load it. Don Waltman's Meats, Williamsport purchased the twice-sold champion steer for \$968.

The reserve champion steer weighing 1,084 pounds, and owned by Laura Lovell, Linden, was sold to Jersey Shore Livestock Market, Jersey Shore for 81 cents per pound.

Buyer of the grand champion market lamb was Don Waltman, Waltman's Meats, Williamsport. Owned by Annette Lovell, Linden, the 120-pound lamb sold for \$3.90 per pound. Reserve grand champion market lamb, owned by Shane Corter, Linden, was purchased by Jersey Shore Livestock Market, Jersey Shore for \$1.30 per pound. The lamb weighed 120 pounds.

John Fritz of Sunset Ice Cream bought the grand champion and reserve grand champion hogs. The grand champion hog, owned by Jackie Snook, Jersey Shore, brought \$6.10 per pound. Total price for the hog which brought almost ten times the market value was \$1,439.60. The reserve grand champion hog went to Fritz for \$2.60 per pound and was owned by Karen Jordan, Unityville.

Also sold to the highest bidder was a pig quilt and pillow, contributed by 4-H leader, Anna Mae Bower, Hughesville. The quilt was sold to Nancy Snook, O K Hog Farm, Jersey Shore for \$135. The stuffed pig went to

Jim...Springman's Nursery, Muncy, for \$85.

Other buyers purchasing a substantial number of animals were the County Store, Pennsdale, who garnered nice animals, and Hatfield Packing, who bought five animals.

Masters of ceremonies for the

sale were Lycoming County Commissioners, Gene Smith and Dolly Wilt. Max Hess, president of the Fair Association was also present.

Elwin Ream, Hughesville, served as announcer and Harold Fraley, of Fraley Auction Co. was the auctioneer.

USDA Offers To Extend 1985 Crop CCC Loans

WASHINGTON — Producers holding Commodity Credit Corporation loans on 1985 crops of feed grains, rye, soybeans and wheat may at their option extend the loans for 12 months, Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng announced recently.

Lung said the action was taken to encourage producers to take advantage of all available on-farm storage space in preparation for the projected large grain harvests this fall. The action is expected to help make available more commercial warehouse space at harvest. Lyng added that the action also would give additional marketing flexibility to producers who have outstanding or unsettled matured loans on 1985-crop barley, corn, oats, rye, sorghum, soybeans and wheat.

Storage costs for the added 12-month loan period will be paid by CCC for all the above commodities except soybeans, Lyng said. The Agricultural and Food Act of 1981

prohibits CCC from paying storage on soybeans.

Producers who wish to extend their loans must request extensions by writing their local offices of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. The request must be filed no earlier than 60 days before the loan maturity date.

Advance storage payments will be issued for all crops except soybeans. The annual storage rates are 26.5 cents per bushel for wheat, barley and corn, 47.32 cents per hundredweight for grain sorghum and 20 cents per bushel for oats.

Producers extending their loans may relay them at anytime during the extended 12-month period, Lyng said.

Interest will continue to accrue during the extended period. Interest rates for the extended loans will be subject to change on Jan. 1, 1987, Lyng said.



Cathy Murray's (at halter) grand champion steer went to John Fritz (second from right) for nearly \$2,000. Fritz was sale's volume buyer, going home with \$4,000-worth of livestock. Also pictured are Cattlemen's Queen Becky Painter and Fair President Max Hess.

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