

Centre Co. Grange Fair Stages 'Best Ever' Sale

BY MARY MAXWELL

Centre Co. Correspondent
CENTRE HALL — Enthusiastic bidders and high quality animals resulted in record prices at the recent Centre County Junior Livestock Sale.

The exhibitors certainly did their homework," said County Agent, Ed Horning. "We had many returning buyers who regularly support 4-H and FFA efforts and then many new buyers at this year's sale."

Hoss's Steak and Seafood bought

the grand champion steer for \$6.05 per pound. Greg Dreibelbis, State College, exhibited the 1,295-pound market steer which sold for a total price of \$7,835. Robb Kimble, Bellefonte, sold the reserve grand champion, an 1,170-pound steer to Internal Medicine Associates, State College, for \$1.15 a pound.

The 39 steers, including the champions, averaged \$1.01 per pound for a sale total of \$46,302.

Competitive bidding resulted in Sunset Ice Cream's high of \$10.25 per pound for the grand champion

market lamb. Scott Kuzemchak of Pleasant Gap received \$1,168 for his 114-pound light heavyweight entry. Joyce Harpster, Boalsburg, exhibited the reserve grand champion. Bierly's Meat Market bought her 114-pound market lamb for \$2 per pound.

The 54 market lambs, including the champions, averaged \$1.29 per pound for a sale total of \$6,996.

The grand champion market hog, shown by Kristen Hazlett, State College, sold to Sunset Ice Cream for \$5.10 per pound. The total price for the 246-pound animal was \$1,255. Kelly Strouse, Spring Mills, exhibited the reserve grand champion. Kissinger, Leonard and Brower Realtors bought the hog for \$3.85 a pound.

The 105 market hogs sold for a total of \$22,664. The average price for all hogs sold was \$1 per pound.

Auctioneer Ron Gilligan, Penns Valley Livestock Co., donated his services for the sale held at the Centre County Grange Fairgrounds.

Results of the Junior Livestock competition follow:

Junior Market Steers

- Champion Lightweight Kenny Strouse
- Reserve Champion Lightweight Greg Dreibelbis
- Champion Middleweight Robb Kimble
- Reserve Champion Middleweight Emily Peters
- Champion Light Heavyweight Lori Cash
- Reserve Champion Light Heavyweight Jodi Decker
- Champion Heavyweight Greg Dreibelbis
- Reserve Champion Heavyweight Robb Kimble
- Grand Champion Market Steer - Greg Dreibelbis
- Reserve Grand Champion Market Steer - Robb Kimble

Market Lambs

- Champion Lightweight Joe Kuzemchak
- Reserve Champion Lightweight Nathan Knepp
- Champion Mediumweight Amy Clair
- Reserve Champion Mediumweight Craig Fleck
- Champion Light Heavyweight Scott Kuzemchak
- Reserve Champion Light Heavyweight Joyce Harpster
- Champion Heavyweight Scott Kuzemchak
- Reserve Champion Heavyweight Craig Fleck
- Grand Champion Market Lamb - Scott Kuzemchak
- Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb Joyce Harpster

Market Swine

- Champion Lightweight April Young
- Reserve Champion Lightweight Matthew Garman
- Champion Middleweight Danny McAllister
- Reserve Champion Middleweight Sherri Strouse
- Champion Light Heavyweight Scott Hazlett
- Reserve Champion Light Heavyweight Amy Homan
- Champion Heavyweight Kristen Hazlett
- Reserve Champion Heavyweight Kelly Strouse
- Grand Champion Market Hog - Kristen Hazlett
- Reserve Grand Champion Market Hog - Kelly Strouse



Greg Dreibelbis (at halter) received \$7,835 for his Centre County grand champion steer when Hoss's Steak and Seafood offered \$6.05 a pound.



Kristen Hazlett sold her grand champion hog to John Fritz of Sunset Ice Cream for \$5.10 a pound.



Scott Kuzemchak had grand champion lamb. Buyer was Sunset Ice Cream, represented by Terry Fritz. Price was \$10.25 a pound.

Beef Briefs

by Chester D. Hughes

Lancaster Co. Extension Livestock Specialist



Feeding Different Types Of Cattle

The decisions on types of cattle to feed are influenced by prices of feeder cattle, feeds used and the expected prices of the finished cattle. Since all of these are continually changing, it is necessary to place each in proper perspective to determine the specific types of cattle most likely to be profitable. Today there are many types of cattle available to feed. The practical cattle feeder is looking for those that can be purchased consistently in volume and are judged most likely to make a profit under his particular management. Furthermore, these animals must satisfy the customer to the extent that the feeder has a continuous demand for his product and over a long-range period can plan to supply it. The versatility and capability of the feedlot operator determine in large measure the flexibility in types of cattle that can be fed and marketed profitably.

During the 1960's the trend, which had gone to small early-maturing cattle in the 1940's and 1950's, began to swing toward the heavier, longer, and taller cattle which had been in existence prior to 1930. Perhaps the major difference between the larger cattle fed today and those fed 50 years ago is the emphasis on rate of growth to reach heavier weights. Instead of feeding steers for two, three, or perhaps four years, as

was done years ago, comparable market weights can now be attained by 12 to 18 months of age.

During the past 10 years there has been increased interest in relating the live animal to desired carcass characteristics. The demand in a large segment of the market has been for leaner beef and away from smaller, fatter cattle. This factor, coupled with performance testing on the part of the breeders, has set a pattern for a fast-gaining, highly efficient steer with an abundance of red meat and brought about the evolution of a longer-bodied, leaner steer with longer legs.

The feedlot industry must have volume; therefore, the cow-calf operators must produce cattle in numbers profitable for them but, in turn, also profitable for the cattle feeders. Rate and efficiency of gain are important to both calf producers and feeders.

Steers have been the sex class of choice among cattle feeders. There are more available to purchase, since many heifers are kept for replacements in the cow herds; they are quieter in the feedlot; they are not as likely to fight as bulls; their growth rate is better than that of heifers, and they sell for a higher price per pound for comparable grades than do either heifers or bulls.

Several studies, as the example indicates, have shown that steers

outgain heifers in the feedlot. Steers are usually fed to heavier weights with less fat than are heifers, and do not reach maturity as early as heifers. Therefore, cattle feeders take advantage of their extended growth period before excessive external fat is deposited. Studies also indicate that steers have heavier cold carcass weights, larger rib-eye areas, greater carcass weights per day of age, and less fat thickness over the twelfth rib.

After a sufficient number of heifers are kept as replacements and additions to the herd, the surplus heifers are available for feeding and slaughter. The feeder of heifers must be aware of the biological differences among bulls, steers, and heifers if he is to manage the heifers properly. Heifers are lighter than steers at weaning and usually lighter as they enter the feedlot. They gain slower, but mature earlier than steers. In addition, they are purchased and sold for less per unit of weight than steers.

Cow-calf operators have not permitted feedlot operators the choice of feeding bull calves in volume, because feeder steers have commanded a higher price than bull calves of similar weights. If bull calves and steer calves brought the same price per unit of weight, the cow-calf operator could hardly afford to castrate the male calves because of their weight advantage. The advantages of bulls over steers in rate and efficiency of gain in the feedlot argue in favor of bull feeding. However, in the past, bull meat has not had general acceptance; thus the feeder expecting to receive a discount on bull carcasses could not afford to feed them.

Comparison of Steers and Heifers on Postweaning Daily Gains

Sex	Experiments			
	1	2	3	4
Steers, adv., lb.	1.85	2.22	2.18	1.80
Heifers, adv., lb.	1.63	1.89	2.02	1.63
Difference	0.22	0.33	0.16	0.17

References:

- Experiment 1. Williams et al. 1965. J. Anim. Sci. 24:283
- Experiment 2. Bradley et al. 1966. J. Anim. Sci. 25:783
- Experiment 3. Wilson et al. 1967. J. Anim. Sci. 26:1465
- Experiment 4. Thrift et al. 1970. J. Anim. Sci. 30:182

Comparison of Steers and Heifers on Carcass Traits*

Trait	Sex	
	Steers	Heifers
Cold-carcass weight, lb.	568	515
Rib-eye area, sq. in.	11.8	11.2
Fat thickness at 12th rib, in.	0.53	0.59
Estimated boneless, trimmed retail cuts, %	50.3	49.7

*Adapted from Thrift et al. 1970. J. Anim. Sci. 30:182

Nominations Due For NY Bull Test

ITHACA, NY — Nominations for the 1986-87 New York Bull Test are now being accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis with a maximum of 100 bulls being accepted for "The Class of '87." Nominations will close Oct. 6.

The Bull Test, which will begin in November, will again be conducted at Cornell University's Livestock Teaching and Research Center at Harford.

Bulls eligible for the 140 day uniform performance test program must have been born between Feb. 15 and April 30 of this

year; must weight 500 pounds or more and have a minimum frame score of four for British breeds and five for continental breeds; must be registered or qualified for registration or recording in a beef registry association; and must be weaned at least 30 days prior to the delivery at the test station. In addition, certain vaccination and health requirements must be met.

Nomination forms and information are available from Bull Test Director William Greene, 130 Morrison Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.