

Pork Checkoff Begins Today

DES MOINES, Iowa — The new national legislative checkoff for pork producers goes into effect today. All U.S. pork producers are now required to check off all classes of swine at a rate of .25 of one percent of gross value. For the first time, importers of hogs and pork products will also participate in the checkoff.

The nation's pork producers have had a checkoff program in operation for many years, but in most states it has been voluntary. Under the largely voluntary program, about 40 percent of the nation's pork producers were not checking off but were benefiting from the various checkoff support programs. Under the new program, all U.S. pork producers, as well as importers, are required to invest their fair share in industry programs and projects through the checkoff.

The new checkoff is expected to

generate approximately \$18 million annually, compared to the \$10 million that has been collected under the largely voluntary program.

Under the new checkoff, hogs are assessed only once in each class (feeder pig, market hog or seedstock). Generally, markets (including packers and dealers) are responsible for collecting the checkoff, except in the cases of seedstock and farm-to-farm sales. In the case of seedstock, the seller or breeder is required to remit the checkoff. The new law requires the buyer to remit funds in farm-to-farm sales.

The new National Pork Board, whose 15 members were officially appointed earlier this month, will have the responsibility of collecting the checkoff and deciding how the funds will be dispersed. It is expected that the board will contract our specific projects and

programs to existing industry organizations, including the National Pork Producers Council. The board is expected to hold its first meeting in early November.

The new checkoff was designed to generate additional funds for promotion, research and consumer information and that is where the bulk of the new funds are expected to go in order to provide the greatest return for producers by strengthening the position of pork in the marketplace.

A referendum of all pork producers will be held 24 to 30 months after the checkoff goes into effect. Until that referendum, pork producers will be entitled to a refund upon request to the National Pork Board. Refund forms are available from the National Pork Board, P.O. Box 9114, Des Moines, IA 50306, and from state pork producer association offices. Requests for refunds will be honored until 30 days after the month of sale. If the referendum is approved, no refund will be offered from that point on.

The National Pork Board has the primary responsibility of enforcing the new checkoff. Failure to comply with the collection requirements could result in fines of up to \$1,000 for each unreported sale, and the payment of 1.5 percent interest per month on late payments.

Beef Briefs

by
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The Value Of A Bull

Perhaps this is not the time of year when most area cattlemen consider their bull needs for the 1987 breeding season. But, maybe it's a good time to plan ahead considering the favorable outlook of the beef cattle industry for the next few years. Red meat supplies are dropping, feed costs have plummeted, interest rates are lower, energy costs are lower, and inflation remains at a lower level, all positive factors for the cattle feeding industry. The potential to place a large number of animals on feed is real and the preceding factors will encourage cattle feeders to competitively bid for feeder animals this fall and winter.

To take advantage of this upturn in the cattle business, cow/calf operators should be interested in helping themselves from a genetic standpoint, an opportunity to boost their productivity by the use of high quality bull power. Obviously the use of artificial insemination and the wide selections of sires available from breeders and bull studs would be an appropriate approach to this genetic boost if you select semen from bulls with highly accurate EPD's (expected progeny difference) or EBV's (estimated breeding values).

It has been proven many times the additional pounds you can add to your weaned calf crop by going this route. Most cattle are still sold by the pound; it only makes sense to take advantage of this lesson. By using bulls with highly accurate EPD's or EBV's you can also do yourself a favor in selecting for calving ease and maternal ability.

Not everyone utilizes A.I. technology, and of those who do, not everyone achieves 100 percent success with conception. What happens to all the cows who do not settle by A.I. or embryo transplant? Must they be culled from the herd? From a management standpoint, narrowing your breeding season and limiting your calving season to less than 90 days (less than 60 is even better) makes sense economically considering labor savings, feed savings, and marketing proficiency.

The need for a natural herd sire becomes important in shortening the calving season. Perhaps you are achieving an 80 percent A.I. conception rate or are using

natural herdsires exclusively. Is it not also important to use high quality bulls as natural herdsires? Maybe your selection is limited as compared to the selection of A.I. sires, however by the use of sire summaries and performance data your choice of a natural herdsire can be more scientific and accurate.

Consider that one major beef breed association has just completed a sire evaluation report analyzing over 32,000 bulls. Their final listing entails data from 1193 bulls currently in use in the United States today, as well as, a list of 1298 young sires with EPD projections. Surely from reports like these a commercial cow/calf producer should be able to make some sound decisions when selecting his next herdsire. Indeed, you certainly want to consider your bull prospect's individual performance and physical appearance in your final analysis. There are many good sons of progeny proven bulls with stacked pedigrees that can make a financially positive difference for you.

The following illustrations should sell you on the use of sire evaluation information. Fleetwood Farms in Delaplane, Va. has recorded weaning weights during a 13 year period from 1970-1983. An average of 630 calves were born annually in this herd, with the average weaning weights increasing from 346 pounds to 461 lbs. from 1970 to 1983. With the use of A.I. and sire evaluation summaries, Fleetwood Farm invested \$23,639 in semen over a 12 year period. Can this be money well spent? By considering the increased value of the 1983 calf crop over the 1970 group we can calculate increased value as \$50,715. (Number of calves born, 630, multiplied by the difference in weaning weight, 115 lbs., times a price per pound of 70 cents. Now consider the following illustration in regards to sample herd bulls "A" and "B".

hope all of this gives you something to think about over the winter and I hope you will do some of your own research and preparation before purchasing your next herdsire. It can certainly be economically positive!

LIVESTOCK LATEST



Franklin 4-H Beef Club Holds Sale

GREENCASTLE — "Julius" a 1,285 pound Angus-Chi crossbred steer owned by Kurtis Meyers, 17, of Greencastle was named the grand champion steer at the 51st annual Franklin County 4-H Baby Beef Club's sale. Julius was purchased by Hoss's Steak and Seafood House of Chambersburg for \$3 a pound. Hoss's also bought Dana Statler's champion light-weight steer for \$1.03 a pound. They plan to donate this steer to the Chambersburg Area High School Band to be raffled off for the band's trip to Florida.

Reserve grand champion honors went to Nicole Lebo, 14, of Greencastle who showed a 1,230 pound Angus-Chi-Limonsin crossbred steer named "Ollie." Ollie sold for \$2 a pound and was purchased by Grove Technical Training Center of Shady Grove. Nicole also placed first in intermediate fitting and showing.

The champion mediumweight steer was shown by David Sheiss of Chambersburg. This steer weighed 1,185 and was bought by Smith's Implements of Mercersburg for \$1.08 a pound. David also placed first in novice fitting and showing.

Regina Lebo, Greencastle showed a 1,325-pound steer to win champion medium heavyweight division title. This steer was purchased by County Market of Chambersburg for \$1.41 a pound. Regina too took first in fitting and showing in the senior division and was named the show's champion showman.

The heavyweight champion title was won by Donnie Sheiss of



Grand champion steer at the Franklin Co. 4-H Baby Beef Sale was shown by Kurtis Meyers. Nicole Lebo had reserve.

Chambersburg with a 1,320 pound steer. This steer was also purchased by County Market for \$1.25 a pound. Donnie placed first in the junior fitting and showing classes, and was also named champion fitter of the show.

Two highlights of the sale came when two area businesses donated the steers they had bought back to the club to be resold with the proceeds going to the club.

Roy Rogers Restaurant purchased Steve Clapsaddle's 1,040 pound steer for 87 cents a pound

and resold it for the club for 81 cents a pound to the AC&T Company of Hagerstown.

The second steer donated back was purchased by Red Pensinger's State Farm Insurance Agency of Greencastle. They purchased Darren Meyers' 1,165 pound steer for 84 cents a pound. This steer was resold by the club to Hick's Chevrolet-Volvo for 79 cents a pound.

The club had a very successful sale with the steers averaging \$1.11 a pound.

7 States Nominate Bulls To New York Test

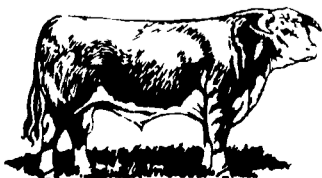
ITHACA, N.Y. — Sixty five beef cattle breeders from seven states have nominated their top young herd bull prospects to the 1986-87 New York Bull Test.

The enrollment for this bull "Class of '87" includes 40 Polled Herefords, 26 Angus, 19 Simmentals, seven Charolais, three Red Angus, two Limousins, one Santa Gertrudis and one Salers. The nominated bulls come from herds in New York, Connecticut, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Vermont.

The 140-day uniform, unbiased test program to measure and evaluate the young bulls will be conducted at Cornell's Livestock Teaching and Research Center at Harford. The official test period will begin Nov. 24 and end April 13.

The test program will conclude with the annual Bull Test Sale May 2.

Information about the Bull Test may be obtained from William Greene, 130 Morrison Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14853.



THE WORTH OF A BULL

ASSUMPTIONS

1. Herd size- 60 commercial cows
2. Use 2 bulls- named "A" and "B"
3. 95% calf crop
4. All calves are sold at 300 days of age
5. Use bulls for 6 years
6. Feeder calf price = \$70/cwt.
7. Bull "A" sires calves that gain 2.0 pounds per day of age
8. Bull "B" sires calves that gain 2.5 pounds per day of age

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE IN RETURN TO THE COMMERCIAL CATTLEMAN?

300 days x 2.0# WDA x \$.70/cwt x 28 calves x 6 years = \$70,560- return from bull "A"

300 days x 2.5# WDA x \$.70/cwt x 28 calves x 6 years = \$88,220- return from bull "B"

THE SIMPLE DIFFERENCE IS \$17,640
If 25% of the females are retained as replacements
the difference is \$13,230.