

Brothers Wins National Chianina Honors

PLATTE CITY, Mo. — The 1986 ACA National Show brought more than 300 livestock entries to the 1986 North American International Livestock Exposition, \$5,000 in national show premiums and enough spectators to keep the galleries full during both days of national show events.

Truly a national show, nearly 200 exhibitors representing all nine ACA regions were in Louisville Nov. 15 through 20 for the Fourteenth National Chianina Show.

Exhibitors from 27 states, including Alaska, and exhibitors from Canada, were in attendance.

Judge Paul Clapp, Searsboro, Iowa successfully managed his task to select the 1986 ACA National Champion bulls and females. His selections were Triple A Amos, grand champion black bull, HB Head on 27T, grand champion white bull; BC Miss Flashblack 2, grand champion black female; and VF Miss Reflection, grand champion white

female.

Clapp found both champion bulls in the junior entries, as both were first named junior champions before stepping out to win the top honors.

Champion white bull, HB Head On 27T, was shown by Campbell Cattle Co., Cedarville, Ohio. A burst of applause from the galleries indicated broad approval for Clapp's selection of the 3-21-85 HB Headliner son.

Robert Duis, Donovan, Illinois also won top honors with his black junior champion, Triple A Amos, a 4-12-85 Walco Ky Colonel son. The champion black bull is reported to have gained 5.7 pounds per day for the 43 days immediately preceding the national show. Show day he weighed 2,013 pounds.

White female honors were claimed by the senior champion owned by Ventura Farm, Ken Geuns, Bath, Michigan and Amy Shearer, Milan, Michigan. VF Miss Reflection 505 is a 4-11-85 Rocking Arrow Replay daughter.

Black champion female, BC Miss Flashblack 2, also named




Karen Brothers (at halter) of East Berlin, showed reserve champion white female at the National Chianina show.

senior champion is owned by Celena Miller of Gainesville, Georgia. She is a 1-24-85 daughter of Flashblack.

In the white female division, LVF Falira 5T, owned by Karen Brothers, East Berlin, Pennsylvania claimed the reserve senior and reserve grand cham-

panion titles. She is a 5-3-85 daughter of Faletto's Image.


Reserve champion black female and calf champion honors were taken by Wendy Butler, Blairstown, Iowa on BXW Street Liberty 166. She is a 3-5-86 daughter of Lautners Black Advantage and GW Black Webb ET 103.



Flock Forum

by
Clair Engle

Penn State Extension Sheep Specialist



Is The Tail Wagging The Lamb

A multibillion dollar beauty contest, a spectator sport, a business, an important factor in food production; livestock evaluation is and has been all of these.

Sizing up the livestock shows, and in this situation the show ram, ewe or market lamb, we do not have quite the glamorous aura of beauty pageants or major sporting events, but almost. It undoubtedly is, however, one of the larger "contests" going on in the country. And yet after decades of study and mountains of data showing the benefits of performance testing, we as an industry (including our other red-meat competitors) still stick primarily to "eyeball appraisal" along with some unusual "professional" instincts when it comes to selecting and promoting the genetics of future breeding stock.

Some of you by now are asking, why talk about it, it is just a fact of life. Today, yes, but I am not sure how much of such continued manipulation and luxury we can afford and yet survive as an industry.

These thoughts come from a concern shared recently by a young dedicated Pennsylvania commercial sheep producer who wants to expand his operation. He shared his frustration in search of some purebred breeding stock that could most efficiently produce commercial replacement stock. Was he selecting and breeding F₁ individuals that, when exposed to a terminal cross sire, would give him an acceptable lamb in today's market place?

I assured him, I thought, that there are a good number of purebred breeders who seriously try to meet the needs of commercial producers. But there are a few also who either do not know or purposely ignore what the sheep business is all about.

Unfortunately, the latter group tends to dominate purebred politics. They "build" sheep — not to meet the needs of the industry, but to win trophies and purple ribbons.

Too strong? I think not, if we are serious about producing a commodity that is acceptable to our consumer. "You know," he said, "it seems like a tail is wagging the lamb." I was listening well when he blurted out. "If you educators want to do something to really help the sheep business, find a way to outlaw sheep shows and get rid of

those bureaucrats who insist on subsidizing such activities. It is a bit ludicrous when you think about it. If we could just once define and apply those basic production and marketing tools that will permit the sheep industry to grow and remain competitive."

I might not go that far, even if the two of us and a sympathetic politician had the political clout to master the occasion. Livestock shows were invented basically as an informal educational tool. If we will define and promote those areas with educational worth for our industry's clientele, both adult and youth — then they will continue to have value.

I do not believe we can totally blame the showing, although I do think the industry would be better off if some of those top place meatless wonders were neutered before they made it to Nationals. We later find these same critters produce offspring that need a feed bucket around their neck in order to stay alive. There is nothing wrong with hauling sheep across the country, dressing them up like clowns, and parading them around the ring, providing you don't have the image of serving some kind of useful function.

If you regard the showing routine as a completely separate aspect of the sheep business and do not get to believing you are doing the sheep industry a service, then it is lots of fun and we can all enjoy it. That is all fine if we do not get more serious than that.

Traits that count can be measured. Aside from structural soundness, if a trait does not have such identity its economic worth is questionable. One common trait both purebred and commercial sheep producers could focus on for survival, in my opinion, is pounds of lamb and/or wool per ewe per acre per production season.

It is time both segments of the sheep industry get down to some dollars and cents reality. Time to stop pretending the showing can do the same job of selecting durable traits that require careful planning, measurement and thoughtful analysis of records. Time to separate pageantry from business!

Next month we will discuss performance testing on the farm, and the value of some basic records for breeding, selection and culling.

Lamb Prices Break Tradition In November

DENVER, Colo. — Lamb price increases broke tradition during the Thanksgiving sales period, a time when retailer and consumer attention is primarily focused on holiday hams and turkeys. Tighter lamb supply, fewer heavyweight carcasses and more lamb retail features contributed to the rise in lamb prices despite a strong turkey market, according to the American Sheep Producers Council.

Turkey stockpiles were high at the beginning of November, 12 percent above 1985 and 31 percent above 1984. Retailers normally start putting turkeys away in April in anticipation of the Thanksgiving holiday. Even with the higher turkey stocks, movement at Thanksgiving was reported to be quite good.

East Coast wholesale prices recovered in late October from an eight-week downturn. Prices were steady to firm during the first two weeks of November at \$1.40 for 55-pound and down carcasses, \$1.35 for 55-65 pound carcasses and \$1.30 for 65-75 pound carcasses. In the third and fourth weeks, a time when retailers concentrate heavily

on turkeys and lamb prices normally suffer, wholesale lamb prices increased five cents each week for all weight ranges. By the end of the month, East Coast wholesale prices were quoted at \$1.50 for light carcasses, \$1.40 for middle weight carcasses and \$1.35 for heavier weights.

Wool trading was slow during

November with only a few reported sales. Some fall shorn wool sold from Idaho at 71 cents on 12 month 56's and 66 cents on lamb wool. A few loads of territory 64's were sold at \$1.95 with 62's at \$1.80 and fleece 54's at \$1.25 clean delivered. Some lambs wool from the Imperial Valley was sold for 68 cents on crossbred 58's to 62's and 74 cents on whiteface 62's and 64's.

New Compound Increases Muscle Growth In Lambs

ITHACA, N.Y. — Adding a new experimental chemical called cimaterol to the diet of young, growing lambs makes their muscles grow like those of weight lifters, resulting in more and dramatically leaner meat.

Cornell University scientists who tested the chemical on lambs say that consumers may be able to buy lamb with significantly less fat in the future.

Donald H. Beermann, an animal scientist in the New York State College of Agriculture and Life

Sciences at Cornell, made that prediction based on tests involving the use of the newly developed chemical on lambs. Beermann said he is convinced that cimaterol could become a major tool for lamb growers, helping them to be more efficient in lamb production. The Cornell scientist successfully produced leaner lamb by introducing small amounts of cimaterol to the diet of young, growing animals. American Cyanamid Co., an agricultural chemical and biotechnology firm, developed the chemical for use as a dietary supplement.

The chemical structure of this compound is similar to some of the naturally occurring hormones in animals, according to Beermann, who is the first university scientist in the nation to test the chemical on lambs. The hormone-like compound was added to the test animals' diet in an amount equivalent to one ounce for each 100,000 ounces of feed ingredients.

One of the two experiments conducted by Beermann involved 24 Dorset wether lambs. One-half of these animals were slaughtered after receiving the compound for six weeks, while the rest continued to have the compound for six more weeks.

In the second experiment, the chemical was fed to 32 Suffolk-Dorset crossbred ram lambs. Similarly, one-half of the animals were slaughtered after five weeks and the rest received the compound for an additional five weeks. Ten to 12 weeks are normally required to bring young lambs to slaughter weight of 85 to 110 pounds, depending on breeds.

Beermann said the chemical consistently improved carcass yield as well as carcass composition (meat, bone and fat) resulting in at least 10 percent more meat with much less fat.

"The total amount of muscle in carcass increased by 20 to 30 percent, while the amount of fat decreased drastically," Beermann

Satterfield Named To DHI Staff

GEORGETOWN, Del. — Otto K. Lange, president of the Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. (DPI), announced the appointment of J. William Satterfield of Dover, Del. to the position of executive assistant effective Jan. 1 1987. The vacancy will be created when the present executive assistant, Gerald B. Truitt, Jr., moves up to executive director on that date.

Satterfield has been in the communications field since 1975. Just prior to joining the DPI staff, he was farm news director for radio stations WSBY/WQHQ in Salisbury, Md. Before joining these stations, he was associated with WKEN radio in Dover, Del. where he supervised the news department, handled advertising sales and programming. During this period he was also Delaware news reporter for WCAU radio in Philadelphia, Pa.

Satterfield is a graduate of



J. William Satterfield

Dover High School and received a B.A. degree from Wake Forest University.

LIVESTOCK LATEST

