

New York Bull Test Nominations Due

CORNING, NY — Nominations are now being accepted for the 1988-89 New York Bull Test sponsored by the New York Beef Cattlemen's Association, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and NYS Department of Ag & Markets. Beef producers must nominate their eligible bulls by October 14.

William Greene, extension associate at Cornell University, is director of the performance test for beef-breed bulls. Greene said only 100 bulls meeting the specified requirements will be accepted. "The primary purpose of this performance testing program is to evaluate bulls under unbiased, uniform conditions and to make these performance-tested bulls available to beef-cattle breeders."

In last year's test, 72 bulls from 51 consignors set standards for weight gains. The 1987-88 class of bulls completed the 140-day test by setting a cumulative average daily gain (ADG) record of 3.96 pounds. Also achieved was a record weight per day of age (WPDA) of 3.24 pounds. Eight of the 36 bulls selling achieved "Certified Superior" status. The \$2,341 average brought by the 36 bulls eligible for the sale was also a new record. Also, two of the bulls sold for \$5,000 each and another brought \$4,800.

The Bull Testing Program again will be held at the Cornell Univer-

sity Teaching & Research Center at Harford, N.Y. Nominated bulls must be registered or eligible for registration or recording in a beef registry association. Bulls must be at least ¼ of any one beef breed. Eligible bulls must have been born during the period February 1 to April 15, 1988. The bull calves must weigh 550 pounds and must have a minimum frame size of four for British breeds and five for Continental breeds when delivered to the test station.

"Buyers are aware of the value of performance, and demonstrated this in last year's sale. Efforts are continually being made by the Bull Test Committee to provide more pertinent information regarding the bulls. For example, Estimated Progeny Difference (EPD) and ribeye measurement will be provided for the 1988-89 Test," said Greene. He also encouraged beef breeders to talk with past consignors and buyers. "The quality of bulls available through the New York Bull Test program can be

seen in the improved quality of calves in New York feeder cattle sales."

"We intend to make every effort to conduct the test with the best management possible under our conditions," said Greene. "We encourage all breeders both in and out-of-state that have potential herd sires that meet our requirements to nominate their bulls to our test."

Nominations forms and further information are available from William Greene, Beef Cattle Extension, 130 Morrison Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 or by calling 607-255-2856 or 255-7112.



Maryland Beef Tour

ELKTON, MD — Cecil County is sponsoring a day of touring beef farms. Beef Tour '88 is set for October 1 and will visit Sayre Farm in Harford County, Wernig Farm in Street, Belvedere Market in Baltimore, and the Eastern

National Livestock Show in Timonium.

The cost of tour is \$15 and the deadline for reservations is September 16. For more information, contact Robert D. Halman, extension agent, at 398-0200, or write PO Box 326, Elkton, MD 21921.

Wool Growers Call For Answer To Lamb Market Downturn

DENVER, Co. — The National Wool Growers Association Board of Directors and concerned producers and feeders searched for an answer to the downturn in the lamb market during the Summer Board of Directors Meeting in Salt Lake City on August 17.

The serious economic problem took top business priority at the two-day session of committee and general sessions. Producer lamb prices dropped 23.5 percent from June 1987 to June 1988, while retail prices rose slightly. Prices dropped from 82 cents in March to 52 cents in August, causing nationwide producer concern.

The NWGA and the American

Sheep Producers Council Lamb Committee initiated work to alleviate the market stress, talking with packers and assessing the market situation.

Continued work on a plan to consolidate the sheep industry's three major organizations -- NWGA, ASPC and National Lamb Feeders Association -- was again given approval by the Board of Directors. A special board meeting to discuss the consolidation was called for October 15. The board is expected to draft a recommendation to the full membership at that time, to be presented at the American Sheep Industry Convention January 18-21 in Las Vegas.

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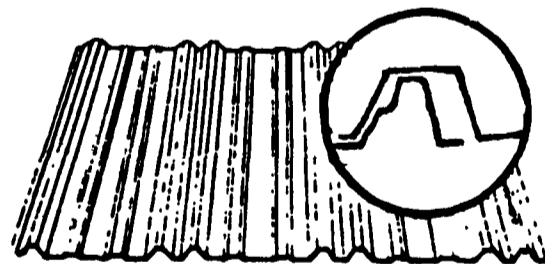
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