

Pittsburgh Cattleman Is State Seedstock Producer Of The Year

ALTOONA (Blair) — Bill Shoemaker, Captain for US Air, was flying high last month when he was named seedstock producer of the year at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Cattleman's Association here.

Bill's herd of 60 Simmental brood cows and 20 embryo recipients is located in Bedford County on a 600-acre family farm. The Shoemaker farm at Buffalo Mills

is a third-generation farm. William Shoemaker, Bill's dad, still milks a 60-head Holstein herd there along side of Bill's herd. Bill and his father share the field work, farm equipment, and facilities.

Bill has been in the cattle business all his life. He owned his first Holstein heifer when he was eight years old. He began artificial insemination of his 30 registered Here-

fords and several Holsteins to Simmental bulls in 1979.

The year before, while on vacation in Kansas, he visited a fellow pilot's farm, where he was cross breeding Herefords with Simmental bulls. The resulting calves were weaning off 75 to 100 pounds heavier than purebred Herefords.

Upon returning home Bill

researched the possibility of cross breeding his family herd. He discovered that breeding cows to a registered Simmental bull would yield half-blood Simmental; half-blood heifers bred to registered Simmental bulls produced three-quarter Simmentals, which could be registered; these Simmentals in turn produced seven-eighths Simmentals of which the heifers are considered purebred by the Ameri-

can Simmental Association. Using this process, carefully selecting A.I. bulls and full-blood Simmental cows, and culling Herefords and Holsteins, Bill built a nationally recognized herd of Simmental cattle.

In the early years Bill was eighter keeping his heifer calves or culling them. The bulls that weren't culled were sold locally. As his herd grew, Bill's need to expand his market for selling bulls and replacement heifers to other Simmental breeders also grew.

Because of this need to expand his market, Bill showed cattle at the 1982 Pennsylvania Farm Show. That year there were only 20 Simmentals in the entire show. Last year there were 98 Simmentals entered.

As the number of Simmental cattle shown at the Farm Show grew, so did Bill's success. In the last few years, he has had both grand champion bulls and grand champion cows at the Farm Show and similar success at other major shows across the country. This success has made it possible for Bill to sell cattle throughout the United States and in Canada.

Beef Hormone Task Force Established

The U.S. half of a task force that will seek an end to the beef hormone standoff with the EEC has been appointed.

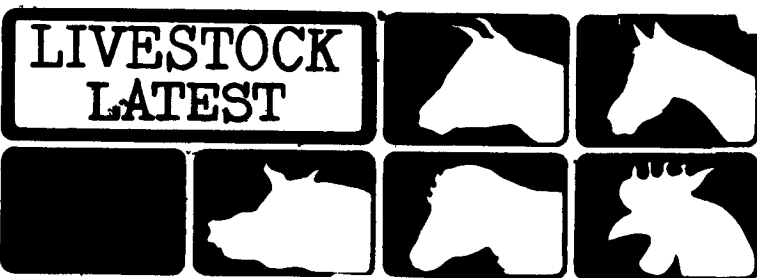
They include: Joss Bolton and Lyn Condon, U.S. Trade Representative's office; Anne Vene-man, Foreign Agriculture Service; and Lester Crawford, Food Safety & Inspection Service.

Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter told a congressional committee the U.S. is not ready to give in to Europe on the hormone ban. Retaliatory measures will stay in place, he said, although they may be reduced by an appropriate amount if the EEC accepts some

U.S. beef certified as having been produced without added hormones.

Yeutter said USDA would not establish a system for certifying that U.S. beef had been produced without hormones. USDA personnel have said they can't develop such a system, because they can't verify scientifically that beef was produced with added hormones. Yeutter said he would not stand in the way if an individual or other government entity tried to develop such a plan.

Reprinted from the March 16 issue of "Drovers Journal."



Holly Farms Bid Extended

Tyson Foods Inc. extended its \$63.50-a-share cash tender offer for the outstanding shares of the Holly Farms Corp. to May 5.

The offer had expired March 31.

Tyson, the chicken processor that has pursued Holly since October, sweetened its offer to \$63.50, or \$1.15 billion, on March 16.

The bid is conditioned upon Holly's ending a lockup option with Conagra Inc., the Omaha-based food giant.

Holly Farms, a poultry producer based in Memphis, and Conagra agreed in November to merge in a stock swap valued at \$59.25 a share, or more than \$1 billion.

Holly Stockholders will vote on the agreement April 14.

Tyson, with headquarters in Springdale, Ark., said it would review its options after the vote.

Holly Farms acquired Victor F. Weaver Inc. of New Holland in 1988.

Swine Productivity Booklet Available

NEWARK, DE. — The proceedings from the January Delaware swine seminar, "Improving Sow Productivity," are available in a bulletin from University of Delaware Cooperative Extension.

Dr. Kevin R. Cera, Extension swine specialist, organized the seminar and compiled the bulletin. Included in the manual are an overview of sow productivity and efficiency, managing for improved herd productivity, minimizing preweaning death loss, wean-to-service interval and fertility, new trends in feeding the high-producing sow, achieving a

90 percent farrowing rate, and using reproductive records as a key management tool.

The bulletin may be picked up free-of-charge at the University of Delaware Research and Education Center in Georgetown. To order by mail, state the name of the publication and send a \$2 check made payable to the University of Delaware and send to University of Delaware, Research and Education Center, R.D. #2, Box 48, Georgetown, DE 19947.

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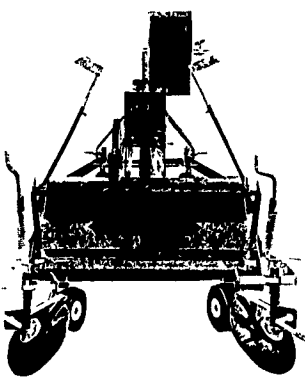
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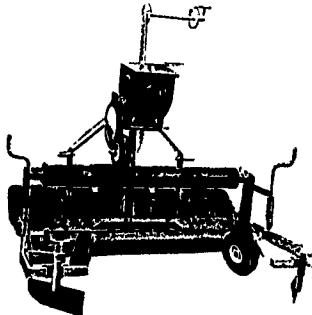


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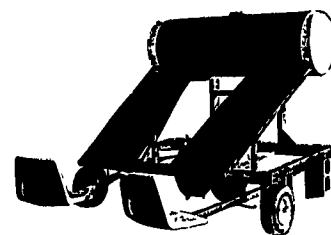


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