

Wanger Shows Champ At Penna Fair Sheep Show

BENSALEM (Bucks Co.) — Competition was tough at the Pennsylvania Fair's first annual open sheep show. A total of 68 head were shown in classes for Suffolk, Columbia, Hampshire, Shropshire, and Dorset. Judge Tim Fleener of Robesonia also selected champion market lambs.

Lee and Louise Wanger of Easton exhibited the champion pair of Dorsets, of which the ewe was judged to be supreme champion of the show.

William MacCauley of Phoenixville showed a ram and ewe that

beat out the competition for champion Suffolk honors. Top Columbia honors went to producers from Flemington, N.J. LMZ Columbias showed the champion ram, while the Zachman family led out the champion ewe.

The champion Shropshire ram was owned by Wey Farm of Kutztown, and the champion ewe was out of the Gold Star Shrops herd, which is in Fleetwood. Wey Farm also did well in with their Hampshires, coming home with both champion ram and ewe honors.

In the market lamb division,

Kennianne Rarrick of Fleetwood won the purple rosette, while a lamb exhibited by the Saul FFA chapter captured the reserve spot.

Proposed Watershed Project Announced

MORGANTOWN, WV. — A watershed protection project is proposed for the Reedy Creek Watershed to reduce excessive erosion and improve grass and legume cover on pastureland. Reedy Creek drains 84,100 acres in Roane and Wirt counties.

If the project is approved, local farmers will receive accelerated technical assistance and cost-sharing to plan and install erosion control measures.

The local sponsor is the Little Kanawha Soil Conservation District. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service (SCS) would provide technical and financial assistance. A pre-authorization planning report is scheduled to be completed in October.

The 440 farms in the watershed average 150 acres in size. The major enterprise is beef cattle, with a small number of sheep farms. Of the 13,340 acres of pasture, 8,010 acres have been identified as needing treatment.

For the dry cows and steers there should be no problem in meeting needs even with more mature hay. The crunch comes on the pregnant heifers and the lactating cows. It becomes questionable with these two groups if they can consume enough of the mature hay to meet their needs on a daily basis. We frequently recommend the use of a forage analysis on hay to determine the actual value. If there ever is a time to take advantage of this information, it is years like this when there will be some pretty wide variation in the quality of the hay being made.

CATTLEMAN'S FIELD DAY

The Pennsylvania Cattleman's Field Day will be held at South Mountain Farm near Gettysburg on July 15 starting at 9:30 a.m. This should be a great day for families, 4-H and FFA members, and anyone interested in the beef business to attend. The program will include a judging contest, hoof trimming demonstration, fencing demonstration, a discussion of feeding Holstein steers for beef, and updates from the Pennsylvania Cattleman's Association and the Beef Council.

A special feature of the program will be a panel discussion about the problems and opportunities in the beef business. Several large and small operators will discuss the things they think are important in their operation and what they believe the opportunities are for the future. Also included are tours of the nearby battlefield, the innovative and progressive Mason-Dixon Dairy Farm, and Mary and Ray Grimes' South Mountain Farm Charolais herd. Lunch will include the "Keystone Ribeye Steak on a Roll" at a reasonable cost of \$2.

Make plans to attend, and if you need any other information contact me or Dr. Lowell Wilson.



Lee Wanger has a firm grip on his Dorset ewe, which was named the supreme champion of the first annual Pennsylvania Fair open sheep show.

Lawsuits Settled On Hereford Perfection Bull

KANSAS CITY, MO. — The American Polled Hereford Association (APHA) has settled seven lawsuits, which sought \$400 million in damages, regarding the 1986 expungement of the bull KLC RB3 Perfection from the APHA record.

A special litigation committee of the APHA board, working with attorneys for both sides, negotiated an out-of-court settlement approved by the APHA Board by an 11 to 1 vote on June 13. This agreement involves no financial payment to plaintiffs, and will save the association an estimated \$200,000 to \$500,000 in further costs. Committee members are Bill Yowell, Killeen, Texas, Dexter Douglass, Tallahassee, Fla., and Orville K. Sweet, Panora, Iowa.

Both sides agreed to a court order of dismissal that provides:

1. Perfection is placed on permanent ineligible status for registration in the association, and no animals sired by him conceived after Aug. 1, 1989, will be eligible for registration in any APHA record.

2. Perfection progeny will, upon proper individual application, be recorded by APHA and issued a certificate with a permanent "L" prefix to the registration number rather than the "X" prefix normally assigned to Polled Herefords. "L" animals will be issued a pedigree certificate to be designed by the APHA, but may be of a different color than "X" certificates, and will contain different certification language and a footnote

explaining that Perfection's dam is included on the certificate based on the affidavit of his breeder. Any future animal with an "L" prefix animal in its pedigree will only be eligible as an "L". No provision was made for "L" animals to become "X" animals.

3. "L" animals may be shown in Polled Hereford National and APHA-sponsored SOP shows beginning in November 1990, under the conditions as may be approved by the APHA Board in its sole discretion. "L" animals can show in other shows under rules set by each individual show.

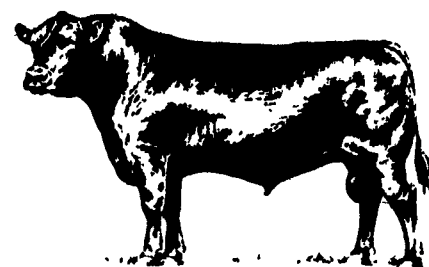
4. "L" animals may participate in sanctioned bull tests and performance programs. They may be advertised in the breed's official publication, Polled Hereford World, and may be issued artificial insemination and donor dam permits, all in accordance with APHA By-Laws and rules.

5. In all activities and advertising, these animals are required to be identified by their "L" prefix numbers.

6. Perfection's breeder, Willard Keith, Owensboro, Ky., permanently resigned his membership from the APHA and has agreed to never own, show or be actively involved with Polled Hereford cattle.

7. All parties executed mutual releases.

Ken Harwell, spokesman for the Kansas City-based APHA, said, "We welcome the resolution of this matter and look forward to working again with those breeders who were inactive during the litigation period."



Beef Briefs



by
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NO ADVANTAGE FOR ROTATIONAL GRAZING?

I was fortunate enough to attend the recent annual meeting of the American Forage and Grassland Council. One of the research presentations ended with the following statement: "There is no advantage to using an intensive grazing system as compared to a continuously grazed pasture." This seems to contradict many of the results found when comparing these systems, so it does require a little closer look.

The work was done in Virginia in the last year by Dr. Vivian Allen. The study compared cows with calves and yearlings on either a 16-paddock, intensively grazed system or a continuously grazed pasture system. For the cows and yearlings, the pastures were fescue and red and white clover. Six cows and their calves and six yearlings were grazed on eight acres in the intensive system, with the yearlings grazing ahead of the cows to remove 50 percent of the standing forage. All calves were allowed to creep graze the next paddock. About 55 percent of the pasture was grazed by the cows during the early part of the season, while the remaining 45 percent was harvested for hay, with regrowth then being grazed. On August 1, the yearlings were removed and the smaller portion was fertilized with 80 pounds of nitrogen per acre and stockpiled for fall grazing.

The continuous system again used 55 percent of the pasture for grazing by the cows. The remainder was used for yearlings and creep grazed by the calves with the excess being cut for hay. On August 1, the yearlings were removed, the pasture was fertilized, and the growth was stockpiled for fall grazing.

The results showed cow weights and total gains per acre of calves and yearlings were greater for the continuous system compared to the rotational one. While differences between the systems was not great for the calves, yearlings gained .2 pounds per day more and

cows weighed 69 pounds more in the fall on the continuous system. However, hay harvest was almost twice as high in the rotational pastures.

Have we been making a mistake, then, in promoting the use of rotational grazing systems? I don't think so.

First, the use of the stockpiled fescue is a key to the success in this type of program. Fescue, for all its apparent disadvantages, can be stockpiled and provide some excellent fall grazing. Dr. Harold Harpster here at Penn State is currently running a trial with sheep to find some fescue varieties that will suit Pennsylvania. Our fall is somewhat shorter in most areas of the state compared to Virginia, so we cannot usually expect to get the advantage of fall grazing compared to more southern areas.

Secondly, this was a pretty good continuously grazed system. It was designed to take full advantage of matching forage growth with livestock needs by employing different classes of cattle, creep grazing, and stockpiling. Finally, these results may change over time because of years with more "normal" rainfall and a change in composition of the forages in the pastures.

As these things usually do, it was interesting to hear this concept of grazing systems had come full cycle and some negatives were being "discovered." However, don't sell any of the electric fence just yet.

FEED VALUE AND HAY MATURITY

The constant rain through May and now extending into June has caused a serious delay in hay harvest over most of the state. It has now reached the point where feed quality is being effected. Producers should remember two things in this regard: feed quality is reduced as the hay becomes more mature, and it will therefore take more pounds of hay next winter to meet the nutritional needs of the cow. The following table using alfalfa will illustrate the effect of increasing maturity on feed value.

HAY REQUIRED FOR METABOLIZABLE ENERGY NEEDS AT DIFFERING MATURITY (LBS: HAY PER DAY)

Cattle Class	Requirement (ME kg)	Early Harvest	Midbloom Harvest	Late Harvest
Pregnant Heifers	17.1	20.1	22.2	24.4
Dry Cows	16.4	19.4	20.7	22.3
Lactating Cows	19.2	22.4	24.2	26.6
Steers (25% Hay)	5.1	5.9	6.4	7.0