

Producers Enjoy Cattlemen's Summer Field Day

MC KNIGHTSTOWN (Adams Co.) — Fun and learning combined during the recent Pennsylvania Cattlemen's summer field day held earlier this month at Ray and Mary Grimes' South Mountain Farm.

Beef producers received an update from Dr. John Comerford, Penn State assistant professor of animal science, on the Holstein beef project being conducted by the university. Sponsored by the Pennsylvania department of Agriculture, Agway Inc., and Century Farms Inc., the research compares fishmeal and soybean meal as protein sources; compares corn silage and alfalfa haylage with cattle type; determines energy and feed efficiency using different forages and protein sources; and evaluate carcasses of steers in the study.

The research, started in November, has been done with Holsteins fed out to 1,400-1,500 pounds on a diet with no forages and 90 to 95 percent concentrates. There is some indication that the ratio of feed intake to weight gain is higher for Holsteins than beef-cross steers in the corn silage and alfalfa haylage study.

The next Holstein steers will arrive August 1 and the beef crossbred will arrive October 1 for the stage in the research.

In a brief update on how check-off dollars were being used, Dave Ivan, executive director of the Pennsylvania Beef Council, reported that the council will be a major sponsor for Penn State football this fall. In addition, the "Beef. Real Food For Real People" campaign is beginning to use ordinary people

rather than celebrities.

Panel discussion

In a panel discussion, Ray Grimes, Bob Tibbs of Darlington, Md., Nancy Scott Bushy of Gettysburg, and Dennis Byrne of Nottingham discussed their beef operations.

Grimes has a cow/calf operation and produces grain and hay as cash crops as well as Christmas trees. He cautioned producers interested in diversifying not to grow Christmas trees as the market has become too saturated in the past decade.

Tibbs works full time at the Phi-

adelphia Electric Co. and has a 55-cow Charolais herd. He doesn't work a 9-to-5 shift, which helps in working his farm, although it's difficult to stop baling to go to work at 3 p.m.

Tibbs hires a custom baler to bale his hay, he usually harvests about 200 six-foot bales per year and 2,000 square bales of second and third cuttings, which he feeds to young stock and first-calf heifers. Some of his cattle is marketed as freezer beef.

Bushy has purebred Angus and produces commercial beef. At one point she and one full-time employee handled nine different

farms, including some battlefield pasture acreage. Her cattle are spread out, but she checks on them three times daily. She creep feeds all calves, which are born outdoors during February, March, and April. Calves are sold in October, usually to one buyer.

Byrne is the herdsman and managing partner of Herr Angus Farms. The farm sold all cows this year and is feeding 600 steers in confinement and 200 on pasture. Waste products from Herr Snack Foods are used in the feeding program. About half the cattle are sold at auction and the remainder are sold direct to packers.

Producers also had the opportunity to take part in a cattle judging contest. Cliff Orley, a cattle consultant with Keystone Cattle Fitting Service and a partner in the Catalyst Cattle Company, was the judge. Richard Miller of Berks County won the event.

Attendees could take special tours of the Mason-Dixon Farms or the Gettysburg Battlefield and Eisenhower Farm. Mason-Dixon Farms has a 1,300-head Holstein herd. An innovative farm, it has 2,100 acres and has a methane generator in which it recycles manure.

Wayne County Fair Plans Livestock Auction

WAYNE (Wayne Co.) — The 13th annual Wayne County Junior Livestock Sale will be Saturday, August 12, 7 p.m. at the Wayne County Fairgrounds.

All prospective buyers will be treated to a beef barbecue from 5 to 6:30 p.m., just prior to the sale.

The sale will serve as a climax for more than 100 young people who have been raising livestock project animals in the 4-H program. Members who are raising beef steers have had their animals on a grain feeding program since last October, while the sheep and hog members placed animals on finishing rations early this spring.

It is expected that 19 steers, 115 hogs and 50 lambs will be offered for sale. All will be of market weight with the steers weighing about 1,000 pounds liveweight, the hogs approximately 200 pounds and the lambs 100 pounds.

Animals will be weighed Friday morning, the day prior to the sale, for the purpose of determining sale weight. They will receive no feed or water from Thursday midnight until after they are weighed.

The sale will be conducted as an auction, with the animals being sold to the highest bidder. Anyone who does not feel comfortable bidding in an auction can make arrangements to have a 4-H leader do the bidding and act as the buyer. Such persons should contact the Agricultural Extension Office to make the necessary arrangements and to secure information on prevailing market prices.

Buyers will receive duplicate ribbons based on judging conducted earlier in the week. Special banners will be presented to the buyers of the three grand champion and three reserve grand champion animals.

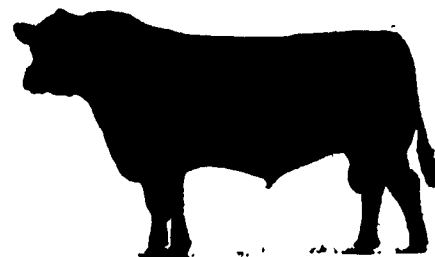
Following the sale, arrangements can be made for transportation and processing of the animals.

The sale steering committee

Aussie Club Closing Its Registry

BEDFORD (Bedford Co.) — As of January 1, 1990, the Australian Shepherd Club of America is closing its registry. For 17 years, the organization has maintained its own registry and show program, in stockdog competition, obedience, conformation, tracking, and junior showmanship.

For those who would like to register their Aussie, contact Ann Humbertson at RD 3, Box 632, Bedford, PA 15522; 814/356-3366. Or write Marti Acierio, the ASCA assistant registrar, 2126 E. Fairfield, Mesa, AZ 85213; 602/833-7956.



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