

Swine Management Column

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attendance, the most important being to keep our eyes open and to know our states' laws. We need to know the battleground in case there is an attempt to legislate.

Other speakers helped to inform the groups about the whole animal rights movement and how it operates at a local level and nationally.

I can't help but think that every animal-producing farmer should have been at one of these meetings. Unfortunately, only about 40 were at one meeting, while about 200 attended the other. Most industries were represented, but when you realize that too many of us don't have the foggiest idea about this movement, it's a little scary. Maybe the less-than-optimal turnout was a result of the many published articles on the topic in many farm publications.

On another note about this movement, I recently received a letter in the mail begging me for money to support one of these animal rights groups. You see, three of their leaders were arrested and face large fines and jail terms. Two of these individuals were arrested for assaulting a federal officer and the other for breaking the door to a building.

The letter went on to say that the officer wasn't even in uniform, and was roughly treating one of the arrested. I have to admit that I chuckled a little at this letter. It's a shame that some individuals feel they are above the law just because they are members of an animal rights group.

My major concern is not that there is an animal rights group but, rather, why it developed. Now is a good time to take a hard look at ourselves, our industry and our individual operations to ensure that we are doing the best possible job. Dr. Ray Stricklin, University

of Maryland, suggests that the animal rights movement has taken away terminology which rightfully belongs to those of us in animal agriculture.

The very name of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals suggests that only those who belong to their group are ethical. In reality, farmers treat animals ethically. Even the term animal welfare belongs to us. Who cares more about the welfare of animals than the farmers who raise them.

Where do we go from here? First, we need to ensure we and our neighbors do a good job on our farms and with our livestock. You and I both know that the vast majority of animal producers practice good husbandry. Those that don't need our help to get in line.

Second, many of the animal commodity groups have already put together basic guidelines for animal care, a proactive approach to the movement. We all need to understand that these guidelines are not something that was put together in haste to confront the movement, but have been suggested criteria for many years and are research-based, proven practices.

Finally, we need to educate our public about agriculture. People need to be made aware of where their food comes from. Often school teachers who teach segments on agriculture know little about the subject. We need to prepare accurate educational packets of materials so that the true message is getting out.

How long will these groups be around? Probably a long time; however, the public will make the right choices if the facts, and not propaganda, are available for their decision making.

Yowell, Davis Elected To Polled Hereford Positions

KANSAS CITY, MO — Bill Yowell of Killeen, Texas, has been elected chairman of the American Polled Hereford Association (APHA) board of directors. Jackie Davis of Napa, Calif., fills the position of vice chairman of the board.

Yowell is from four generations of ranching, and at one time Yowell Ranch registered the second-highest number of animals with the APHA in one year. He has been president of the Texas PHA and the Central Texas PHA, and has served on the board of the South Texas PHA.

He was elected to the APHA board of directors in 1986. He has been involved in the lumber business and real estate in Killeen and is an attorney. He has been president of the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce, director of the Lumberman's Association and president of the Bell County Registered Cattle Breeders.

Davis was elected to a full term on the APHA Board in 1987, after filling a term for a previous director. His career with Polled Herefords began as an FFA enterprise, and he now manages the herd at Napa Valley Polled Herefords in Napa, Calif.

He's served two terms as president of the California-Nevada PHA and has served on this group's board for more than 12 years. He has served on the association's show, sale and bull test committees and is a member of the California Cattlemen's Association. He has joined numerous shows and has been named the California Livestock Producer for



Bill Yowell, left, of Killeen, Texas, is the newly elected chairman of the board of the American Polled Hereford Association. Jackie Davis of Napa, Calif., fills the position of board vice chairman.

the Beef Improvement Federation.

The American Polled Hereford Association, with its some 12,000 members, is currently the nation's third largest beef breed registry

association. Long-recognized as a leader in innovative performance and educational efforts, APHA serves members in all 50 states, Canada and several foreign countries.

Poultry Meeting Proceedings Available

GEORGETOWN, DE — The Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. (DPI) has available a limited number of copies of the proceedings from the 1989 National Meeting on Poultry Health and Condemnations.

This 187-page book contains 20 papers on poultry health and 13 papers on processing. It is an excellent resource and reference manual.

To order a copy of the proceedings from this internationally recognized meeting, send your name and address and a check made payable to DPI to Proceedings, Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc., R.D. 2, Box 47, Georgetown, DE 19947-9622.

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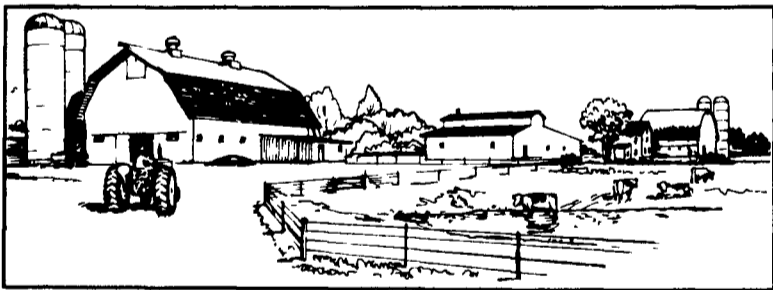
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