

Hereford Places High In Bull Performance

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Bedford Co. Correspondent
BEDFORD (Bedford Co.) — Bedford County has been long known for quality dairy farming. And test results from the Pennsylvania Performance Bull Test at Penn State University show a climbing reputation in the Polled Hereford division.

Placing first among 21 Polled Herefords in the 112-day test was Paul Slayton, who leases 1,500 acres of the Falkland Farms near Schellsburg.

Slayton has 100 head of pure

bred Polled Herefords, 50 commercial, and 50 German Gelbvieh. The Gelbvieh are a project of Slayton's. Since January, the Slayton herds have produced 53 calves.

Slayton said he has been entering the competition for the past eight years and has always been very competitive but has never won before. "It has been a personal objective of mine," said the former manager of the "Polled Hereford World Magazine." The bull, named Turning Point, is the result

of two Falkland Herefords and was raised on the Slayton farm.

Slayton moved to the Falkland Farm because "it always enjoyed an outstanding reputation," he said.

Leon Falk was regarded as a philanthropist with National Steel in Pittsburgh. The farm is now owned by his widow, Lottie.

In partnership with Paul is his wife, Bette, who grew up on a Polled Hereford farm in Wisconsin.

Slayton says he hasn't shown cattle for many years but has entered other bull tests in West Virginia and Wisconsin. "This is the best record we have had yet," he said.

He is a member of the Bedford County Cattleman's Association, the National Cattleman's Association, and a number of other Polled Hereford groups.

Placing fifth in the Penn State competition was Tawnya Wolfhope, a former Pennsylvania

Polled Hereford Queen. It is the third year Tawnya has entered the competition. In other years, she placed fifth.

A veteran at winning trophies, Tawnya took a first place award at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show in January.

The mother, FLF Falkland, has produced all three Herefords for Tawnya, who is the daughter of Ed and Peg Wolfhope.

She attributes the success of her Herefords to good bloodlines.

High Quality Wool Earmarked For Upcoming Sales

DENVER, Colo. — More than 2.5 million pounds of high-quality wool will be offered to domestic and foreign buyers at three upcoming sales sponsored by the United States Wool Marketing Association and the American Sheep Industry Association.

The USWMA is in charge of the sales while ASI will supply the wool prepared under its Wool Quality Improvement Program guidelines by producers nationwide.

The first sale will be held April 16 in San Angelo, Texas, where more than 360,000 pounds of wool will be offered. The second sale on April 30, will also be held in San Angelo — 425,000 pounds of wool will be up for sale. The third and final sale will be held on May 21 in Rapid City, S.D., and will offer the most wool of all — 470,000 to 490,000 pounds.

"Judging from the amount of inquiries we've received so far, we're expecting good attendance from both producers and buyers," said Joe Helle, chairman of ASI's Wool Council. Helle is pleased at the amount of interest, noting the joint program between ASI and USWMA is only in its second year. "We had a lot of feedback after the pilot program last year and not all of it was favorable," said Helle. "We recognize that last year's sale didn't bring the higher prices producers were hoping for but what they need to realize is that this was due to circumstances beyond our control."

Helle is referring to Australian floor prices that fell just days before last year's sale. This resulted in many of the participating producers not receiving the maximum potential for their higher-quality, well-prepared wool. "I think the majority of producers understand what happened," said Helle. "We still have a large following that is very committed to the program and understands the long-term importance of quality wool's competitiveness in a global market."

Helle said that unless producers have a top-quality wool to offer buyers this year, they may not have any takers for their product. "Quality is of paramount importance," said Helle. "And the Wool Quality Improvement Program helps provide producers with a more marketable product." The program's emphasis is on proper shearing and preparation techniques which results in the kind of wool warehouses and textile companies prefer over a lesser-quality product.

Wool prepared under the program's guidelines also got high marks after samples of it were used in combing trials. "The information we're getting back from the combing trials indicates that we have a superior product that's generating a lot of interest from domestic and foreign buyers alike," said Helle. "When we produce a product that gets this kind of response, you know we're on the right track."

Tilmon Receives National Extension Assignment

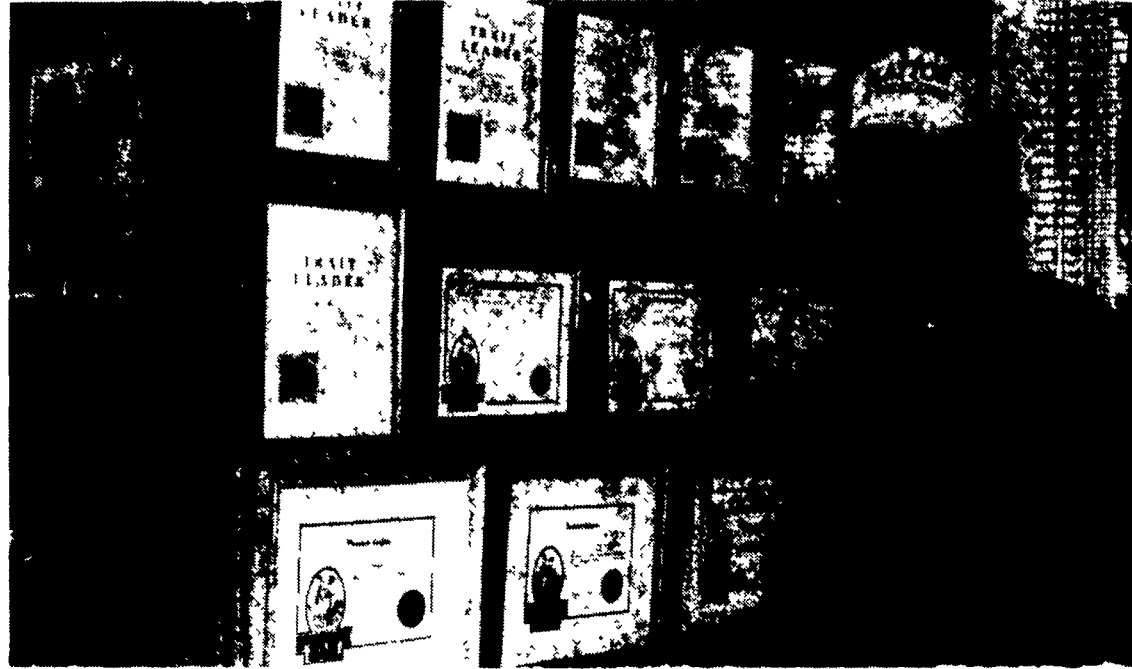
NEWARK, Del. — Dr. H. Donald Tilmon, University of Delaware Extension farm management specialist, will be working on a 50 percent time basis with the Cooperative Extension System/U.S. Department of Agriculture. His appointment runs from March 1, 1991 through February 28, 1992.

During his assignment, Tilmon will lead a nationwide review, testing, and implementation of the USDA-developed Farm Decision Support System computer model PLANETOR. This model can be used by farmers to analyze the environmental impact of production practices including pesticides

or fertilizer applications. It is also aimed at reducing dependence on off-farm resources. The program will be site-specific to state and regions that decide to use it.

Several year ago, Tilmon was involved in implementing another nationwide Extension computer program, FINPAK.

The Delaware Farm Management records-keeping program led by Tilmon will continue uninterrupted with the help of Garland Saville, an Extension associate. Saville has been hired to assist with the 25 participating farm families. This project was funded by the Delaware General Assembly in 1988.

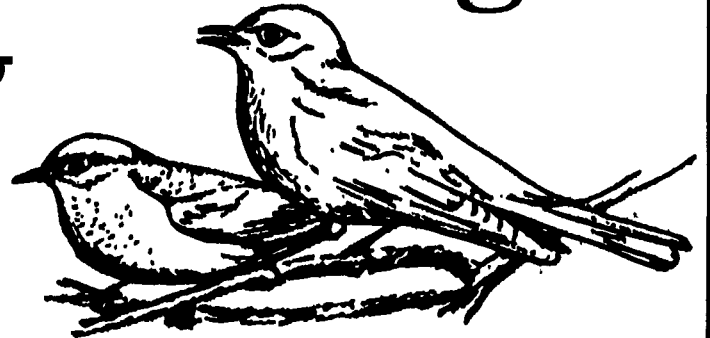


Paul Slayton, Schellsburg, raised the first place bull in the bull test at Penn State University. Here, Slayton is shown with some of the many awards he has won for "Benchmark Cattle."

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