

Beef Consignors Receive Report

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, May 23, 1992-A31



WEST SALEM, Ohio — Sixty-seven Angus cattle producers are anxiously awaiting the results of the 1992 Certified Angus Beef Feedlot Gain and Carcass Contest.

Although final results will not be released until late July, consignors and interested cattle producers were given an opportunity recently to visually evaluate the steers' progress during an open house at Decatur County Feed Yard, in Oberlin, Kan.

Mick Colvin, Certified Angus Beef Program executive director, shared preliminary carcass data information from the first group of 42 steers slaughtered at the Excel-Ft. Morgan plant April 23. Colvin reported a high percentage of the group met Certified Angus Beef carcass specifications.

He commended consignors for their interest in learning more about their cattle's feedlot and carcass performance.

"The beef industry should focus greater attention on designing product specifications to provide a high quality product for consumers rather than changing specifications to meet demands of the production sector," said Colvin.

"Programs like this carcass contest give the beef industry an opportunity to address the concerns identified by the National Beef Quality Audit and provide consumers with a consistent, high quality product."

Randy Blach, Cattle-Fax director of market analysis, provided open house attendees an in-depth analysis of retained ownership. Blach identified variation in production costs as one of the key areas cattle producers need to target for increased efficiency. He also called for a consolidation of

industry profit centers to lower costs of production.

John Crouch, American Angus Association director of performance programs, also addressed the group regarding use of expected progeny differences (EPD) in sire selection. Crouch stressed the significance of EPD as they related to genetic traits which can be accurately measured and analyzed to provide a sound base for breeding decisions.

Warren Weibert, Decatur County Feed Yard general manager, spent time evaluating the con-

test entries with attendees and consignors at the feedlot. Overall comments indicated consignors were impressed with the cattle's progress and were looking forward to receiving final carcass data.

Contest results will be unveiled July 25 during the National Cattle-men's Association midyear meeting in Denver. The Certified Angus Beef Program views the contest as a critical opportunity for producers to learn more about their production and value-added marketing options.



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A new Agco Allis tractor dealer training field day was held Thursday at Hernleys Farm near Elizabethtown. More than fifty dealers from Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia attended the meeting and saw the new equipment at work in the field. Representing the company are, left to right, Dick Blielby, Harrisburg regional sales manager; Dexter Schaible, tractor product manager, Atlanta; Duane Hernley, local dealer; Ed Swiugle, vice president, AGCO, Atlanta; and Fabian Wilkinson, product specialist, SLH, Italy.

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