

Guernsey, Brown Swiss, Milking Shorthorn Breeders Join

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REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — Starting February, the appraisals, or classifications as they are commonly called, of registered Guernseys, Brown Swiss and Milking Shorthorn cattle are to be shared efforts among the three national breed organizations, according to spokespeople with the American Guernsey Association (AGA).

In an effort to reduce operating costs and increase field efficiency, appraisers for each of the national organizations are to classify not only cattle within their own organization's breed, but the other two as well.

In other words, current Guernsey

classifications will be conducted by AGA, Brown Swiss and Milking Shorthorn classifiers.

The same is true for the other breeds.

In a news release, Becky Goodwin, spokesperson for AGA, said, "The combining of appraisal programs is the first of several steps that may lead to all three organizations joining their entire operations under one roof."

However, in a Monday telephone interview, she said, "It is not a merger or a takeover. We want to make that clear."

According to Goodwin, "The Guernsey Association and the Brown Swiss Association have been talking about doing things

together, that would financially help both organizations. We're going to try the appraisal joint effort on a trial basis. In the future, we hope to help each other with things like record keeping. This is kind of an initial starting point, to see how it goes."

Goodwin said the AGA Board of Directors approved the joint effort during its June meeting. However, she said that before the joint appraisal were to go into effect, the "Type Committees" of each respective breed got together to discuss the differences and some areas with which they wanted the three-breed appraisers to become familiar.

This fall, according to Goodwin, when Guernsey appraisers went into the field for classification, they took with them Brown Swiss

and Milking Shorthorn appraisers, and vice versa, in order to familiarize each other with the work.

While a specific date hasn't been set for a review of the success of the trial program, she said the program would definitely be reviewed by the June AGA board meeting. "Both boards and executive secretaries will be very active to keep an eye on things and to make sure it goes as smoothly as possible."

Financially, Mike Ousley, AGA controller, said the savings to the 2,000-member AGA national organization is estimated at between \$7,000 to \$8,700. "I think the Brown Swiss (breeders) would realize about the same (savings)."

Ousley said that while the savings from combining appraisal work doesn't seem like much, con-

sidering an annual budget of about \$500,000, it is just the start of work to cut costs.

According to recent news release, "The combining of appraisal programs is the first of several steps that may lead to all three organizations joining their entire operations under one roof. Potential sites for a joint location are now being examined by the boards of these associations. At this time, no time table has been set for when such a joint occupancy might occur."

Ousley said that if the organizations could combine all operations, it is estimated that total annual savings to the AGA would be from \$35,000 to \$50,000 per year.

Any cattle breeders who have questions should contact their respective breed organizations, Goodwin said.

Meat Production Down

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Commercial red meat production in the state during October 1993 totaled 95.3 million pounds, dressed weight basis, down 2 percent from October 1992, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS).

Beef slaughter at 108.0 million pounds liveweight was 4 percent less than October 1992. Total head slaughtered was 87,000, down 5 percent from last year.

Liveweight averaged 1,241 pounds, an increase of 14 pounds from last year.

Veal slaughter was 6 million pounds liveweight, 7 percent more than a year ago. Calf slaughter of 14,700 head was up 7 percent; average liveweight decreased 1 pound to 407 pounds.

Hog slaughter was 47.2 million pounds liveweight, up 2 percent from October 1992. Total head slaughtered was 187,500, down 5 percent from last year. Average liveweight increased 19 pounds to 252 pounds.

Lamb and mutton slaughter was 597,000 pounds liveweight, down 30 percent, the number slaughtered was 5,800, down 27 percent from October of last year. The average liveweight decreased 4 pounds to 103 pounds.

Nationally, commercial red meat production for October totaled 3.5 billion pounds, dressed weight basis, down 4 percent from last year.

Beef production, dressed weight basis, at 1.98 billion pounds was down 2 percent from a year ago.

Veal production at 22.0 million pounds was down 8 percent.

Pork production totaled 1.47 billion pounds, down 7 percent from a year earlier.

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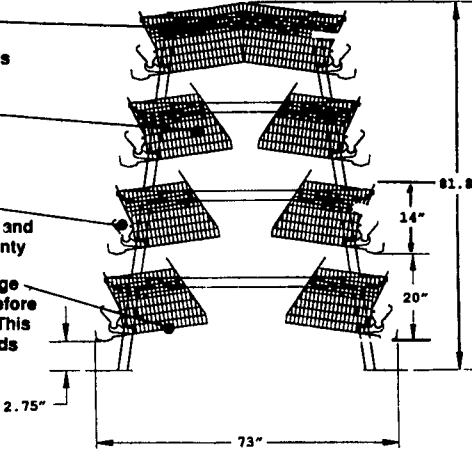
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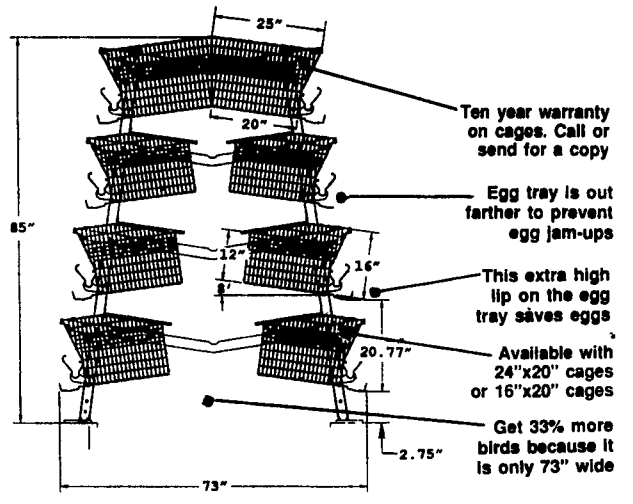
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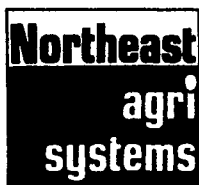
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