



◆ FARM FORUM ◆

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I still have questions could this incorrect report lure good animals out of the farmers barns to make buyers more profit. Is there a possible kickback? This might be a good story for you to report on. Start talking to livestock haulers! Thanks for your help.

Jean Litchard
Danville

Fact or Fiction

As a dairy farmer I have been

pondering how so many farmers receive such high prices at the local auctions.

This past week our farm decided, based on market prices listed in farm papers, that it might be a little more profitable for us to send our two year old open heifer to auction. Since the market report stated fat heifers were bringing at least \$0.50 we had figured our heifer would bring home \$500, however, what a fiction story our projection was. Based on the actu-

al Livestock Auction price we received \$338.62 for a 1060 lb. heifer, on October 30, 1995.

Since we dairy farmers are a curious lot, my husband and I decided to check on the market report, once again. To our knowledge there were only at best four heifers at the poorly attended auction! What surprised us was that heifers brought between \$0.52 to \$0.59 a pound. Breaking Utility and Commercial Cows brought \$34.25 to \$37.10. This report was not an error it will be published in all farm papers, but it appears to be a fictitious one.

Being an inquisitive person I decided to investigate. I was asked if our heifer was mistaken for a cow? Does this auction perform udder attachment surgery, I wondered, but since cows were bringing \$0.34 and our heifer brought \$0.32 that certainly was not a possibility. Oh yes, and the old story, since our heifer was a Brown

Swiss it brought much less, but all heifers brought \$0.52 to \$0.58 or so it was listed on the actual market report.

I am entitled to believe after much research into this accurate market report our heifer was somehow altered. It appears she had an udder attachment, grew feathers, and sprouted billy goat horns. At this writing the auction is upset, yes, now that the auction owner thinks about it our heifer

was resold by the buyer as a cow to make more profit, the Pa. Department of Agriculture is annoyed that I want accurate reports, and I am trying to make some sense out of raising animals for two years and receiving chicken feed as payment.

I guess in a story there is always a moral: All that receive chicken feed should do some very serious squawking!

Ag Preserve Application Cycle Opens

YORK (York Co.) — The York County Ag Land Preserve Board is now accepting applications for consideration of the purchase of developments rights of qualifying York County farmland.

If you are interested in selling your farmland's development rights, please contact the York County Ag Land Preserve Board's program office, located at 118 Pleasant Acres Road in York, or call (717) 840-7400 for an infor-

mational packet. Deadline for application is January 31.

The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Program has preserved 29 farms in 11 townships, reflecting a total of 7,582 acres to date. Another 1,843 acres is also in process for preservation in 1996, using the 1995 funds.

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