

Beef Evaluation Program Set

LEESPORT (Berks Co.)—All beef producers are invited to attend an On-Foot, On-Rail Beef Evaluation Workshop to increase their skills at evaluating live animals. This event is sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension

in southeast Pennsylvania and Berks/Southeast Cattlemen.

The sessions will be as follows:
 •Live Evaluation—Jan. 16 at Leesport Farmer's Market, Rt. 61, North of Leesport. Live Evaluation: 7:30 p.m.

•Carcass Evaluation—Jan. 18 at Peters Bros. Meats, Lenhartsville, Lenhartsville Exit of Rt. 78 (22) just off Rt. 143 in Lenhartsville. Carcass Evaluation: 7:30 p.m.

On Tuesday evening, Jan. 16, each animal will be evaluated by everyone attending. Animals will be judged on quality grade, yield grade, size of rib eye and depth of fat over rib and overall characteristics as a beef animal. A cattle buyer from Meyer's Packing will help with the live evaluation. At the live evaluation, Jeff Mamett from Upjohn will conduct a quality assurance discussion including site injections and other concerns.

On Thursday, Jan. 18, Chester Hughes, extension agent in Lancaster County, will evaluate each carcass for dressing percentage, marbling score, maturity, quality grade, rib eye area, fat over rib, and yield grade.

The cost is \$2 for non-members of the Berks/Southeast Cattlemen Association. There will be no cost for members who have paid their 1996 dues. Cattle producers interested in having one of their animals evaluated are welcome to enter a steer, heifer, bull or cow.

For more information, contact Clyde A.B. Myers, Berks County Cooperative Extension, (610) 378-1327.

Organic Growers Meeting Set

ANNAPOLIS, Md.—Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Lewis R. Riley has announced that the Maryland Department of Agriculture along with the Maryland Marketing Cooperative Advisory Committee and the Maryland Organic Food and Farming Association will sponsor an organic producers meeting on Jan. 13, at 1 p.m. in the MDA Headquarters Building, Annapolis.

The purpose of the gathering will be for all growers interested in forming an organic producers association to meet and discuss cooperative solutions to common problems.

"Organic production is increasing in our state and we hope to do a better job of marketing organic fruits and vegetables. I urge all organic producers who are interested in forming an organic producers association in order to improve our marketing efforts, to come to the meetings in January. This is an opportunity for organic farmers to aggressively help themselves," Riley said.

In addition, the Maryland Organic Food and Farming Association will hold its annual meeting on the same morning beginning at 9 a.m. This meeting is open to the public and will feature a keynote speaker from one of the nation's most successful organic marketing cooperatives.

For further information and a snow date, call the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Marketing Services, at (410) 841-5770.

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CLAYTON, N.J.—Helena Chemical, Ted Platz, and Norman Smith were honored recently at the annual meeting of the New Jersey Agribusiness Association (NSAA) at the Holiday Inn Executive Conference Center in Bridgeport.

Helena Chemical Co. was named Agribusiness of the Year for 1995. They have sales offices in Woodstown and a division office in Swedesboro. They were honored for their outstanding sales

and service to New Jersey farmers and specialty crop growers.

Also recognized were five sales and management people of Helena who have provided leadership to the former Plant Food Educational Society, the former Pesticide Association of New Jersey, and the New Jersey Agribusiness Association. Jerry Frecon, public relations chair of the NJAA, presented the award to Roy Petters, local manager of Helena in New Jersey.

Ted Platz was named N.J. Agribusinessman of the Year because of his extraordinary efforts in promoting New Jersey Agriculture. Platz is the president of Plant Food Company, Inc. of Cranberry, N.J.

Norman Smith of Vineland was presented the "Heritage Award" for his past contributions to agriculture. Smith was a county agricultural agent in New York State and Cumberland County for 32 years.



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