

Simmental Tops Pa. Bull Test, Sale



Pennsylvania's 24th Performance Bull Test recently ended with a smooth-poled Fullblood Simmental finishing strong as top gaining bull over all breeds. Bill Flagg, breeder, left, and Ken Faust, buyer, right, with WP Amadeus at Pennsylvania Bull Test.

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Pennsylvania's 24th Performance Bull Test recently ended with a smooth-poled Fullblood Simmental finishing strong as top gaining bull over all breeds.

The Agnus breed was heavily represented with more than 35, and there were 15 Hereford, 13 Simmental, four Charolais, two Shorthorn, and a Buelingo!

Pennsylvania's test lasts for 112 days with a 21-day start-up period. Bulls are weighed every 28 days and their feed consumption is tracked using pinpointers. At the end of the performance test, the bulls are scanned for fat thickness and loin area, and frame scores are assigned.

Scrotal circumference is measured as well as a pelvic size measurement. The semen is tested for viability. Only the top 75 percent of bulls on test sell at the end of

the test.

The top gainer was bred and owned by Bill and Karen Flagg of Warren Point, Elverson. This Fullblood son of AF Topflight395A had an average daily gain for the 112 days of 4.91 pounds with a ratio of 123. His feed efficiency was 5.06 pounds of feed per pound of gain. The top bull had a fat thickness of .26 and 13-inch loin area.

This bull was out of a Target daughter, who is also the daughter of the Flagg's 50 percent Fleck-

veih Athena donor cow. The Flaggs have had Athena progeny on test previously and they have finished top or second. Sire Power purchased the last Athena son at the Pennsylvania Bull test.

This top gainer was also the top selling Simmental bull. He was purchased for use in Ken Faust's Purebred herd, Faust Hidden Oaks, Gettysburg, for \$2,500. Twelve Simmental bulls sold and averaged \$1,338.

Department Of Agriculture Open House Attracts Large Crowd

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The Maryland Department of Agriculture's Tenth Annual Open House recently attracted more than 5,000 visitors to see the department's many programs in action as well as learn about Maryland agriculture.

Greeting the crowd was Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Lewis R. Riley. He was joined by Maryland Comptroller Louis Goldstein and the American Honeybee Queen Lisa Anderson, who is on a national tour in support of agriculture.

"I was extremely pleased to see so many families enjoy their day at the Maryland Department of Agriculture. We had many activities going on throughout our buildings and all over our grounds

to teach people what our agency does to serve each and every Maryland citizen," Riley said.

New this year was an opportunity to participate in ice cream making, courtesy of the University of Maryland, and an educational trailer provided by the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation to educate young people about aquatic science and the environment. Other highlights of the program included the famous hog calling contest and the hay bale toss. Throughout the day there were demonstrations in the weights and measures, state chemist, seed, plant protection and mosquito control laboratories and exhibits and food sampling of Maryland agricultural commodities. In addition, there was a petting zoo, a farm puppet show, a

swarming bee exhibit featuring Bynoe the honeybee dog and a plant propagation demonstration.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture began holding its Open House in 1988 to coincide with the celebration of National Agriculture Week, the third week in March. The event has grown each year and has become an important part of the State's early spring calendar of notable events and activities. The Open House is put on by MDA employees who volunteer from the headquarters building and from field offices from all across the State.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is located at 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401. Visit the website on the Internet at <http://www.mda.state.md.us>.

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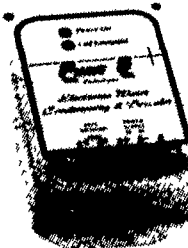
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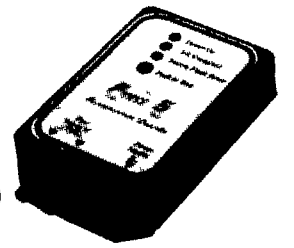


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