

Keystone Junior Beef Classic May 23 - 24

BUTLER (Butler Co.) — The Northwest Keystone Junior Beef Classic is scheduled for the Butler Fairgrounds on Memorial Day weekend, May 23 - 24. This will be the 13th year for the all-breed steer and heifer show that has drawn cattle and exhibitors from five states.

It gives youth under 21 years of age an opportunity to enter competition drawn from a larger area than usually seen at the county fairs in which they compete during the summer.

Exhibitors do not have to be 4-H or FFA members to participate. A friendly, helpful atmosphere makes this the perfect preview show for beginning showmen.

There are already 73 steers and 50 heifers entered in the 1998 contest and late entries will be accepted until 8:30 a.m. on show day. Exhibitors are reminded that all animals must be accompanied with proper health charts indicating freedom from disease and proper vaccinations as set forth by the regional Pennsylvania Department of Animal Industry.

The three-day Memorial Day weekend allows Monday for rest and recuperation, since the open

cattle show is scheduled on Sunday. For the first time this year the Pennsylvania Junior Polled Hereford Association will hold their spring show in conjunction with the Classic. Their show is slated for 1 p.m. Saturday. Following that, the always popular Classic Showmanship Contest will get under way.

An educational program on Quality Assurance will also be offered Saturday afternoon, followed by a pizza party. Also new for 1998 is a trade show featuring businesses that help sponsor the show. Trade show exhibits will be open both days.

Sunday brings the real excitement when the steer and breeding classes are judged. In the heifer show, premiums will be paid for all classes and trophies will be awarded for grand champion, reserve champion, and bred and owned. Registered heifers will show by breed and commercial classes will be held for unregistered heifers. A prize of \$200 will be awarded to the supreme champion heifer of the show.

The popular county steer classes will again be offered for any county (from any state) that

has five or more preregistered steers. County winners will win a jackpot of \$10 times the number of steers shown in the class. Clubs and co. groups coordinate plans for the group to participate, and someone from each county wins the jackpot. So far, seven counties have enough entries for a county steer class. They are Beaver, Butler,

Lawrence, Crawford, Venango, Mercer, and Indiana. There is also an all others division, for those not having enough entries for a county class. The county champions will then compete with the all others champion for grand champion steer with a prize of \$250 and reserve champion steer with a prize of \$100.

Entry forms have been mailed to past participants. For more information or entry forms, contact your county extension agent or Beth Wingard, show secretary, (814) 782-3992, or write Northwest Keystone Junior Beef Classic c/o Bob Calvert, Mercer County Extension Office, P.O. Box 530, Mercer, PA 16137.

AHI Announces Action Plan to Address Antibiotic Use

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Animal Health Institute, a U.S. trade association representing manufacturers of animal health products, has announced an action plan to address the complex issue of antibiotic use in animals.

"AHI is committed to a multi-pronged strategy that will simultaneously assess any possible risk of antibiotic use in animals and assure that these drugs are used prudently by those charged with the health and well-being of animals," said Alexander S. Matthews, AHI president and CEO. "We share the concerns of the human medical community that overuse of these important medicines can lead to resistance."

AHI's approach is based on working in concert with government agencies, the Food and Drug Administration and United States Department of Agriculture, who have oversight for the regulation of animal health care products and monitor resistance. AHI's plan to reduce the potential for resistance in humans and assure the availability of animal antibiotics combines several elements including:

- An independent assessment to examine the benefits and relative risk to people of treating animals with antibiotics.
- Development of guidelines for the prudent use of antibiotics in farm animals
- Support for improved sur-

veillance and monitoring of how animal antibiotics are used.

Matthews stated that the approach demonstrates that the animal health industry shares the concern of public health officials that the inappropriate use of antibiotics whether on the farm, in hospitals, or by physicians can contribute to the increase of antibiotic resistant bacteria

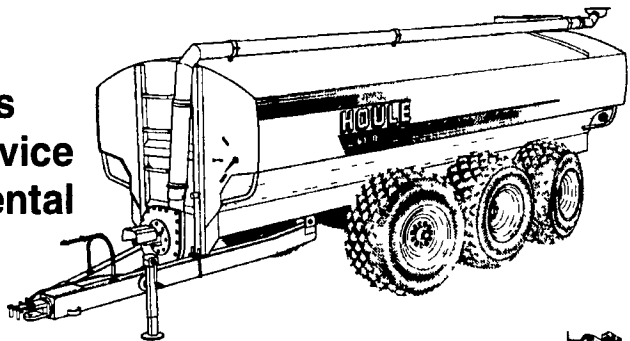
In addition, an information kit explaining the issue has been developed and is composed of the following documents:

- Backgrounder on antibiotic use in farm animals
- Fact sheets on two common foodborne bacteria - salmonella and campylobacter
- Summary of research conducted in the past 40 years
- Fast facts and answers to commonly asked questions
- Information on the process of antibiotic approval
- Sample labeled indications for antibiotics.

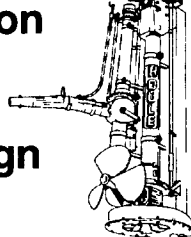
The kit can be obtained through the internet at www.ahi.org/info/general/antibiotics.htm or send a fax request to (703) 684-0125 to receive a mailed copy.

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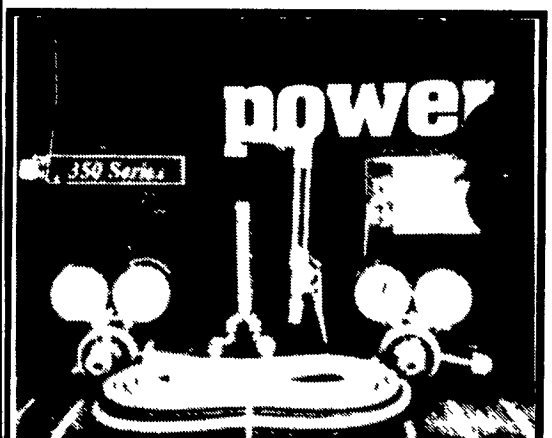
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