

Study Shows Baleage Breakthrough

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — The average weight gain among yearling beef heifers fed sliced silage bales is 23 percent more than those fed unsliced silage bales, according to a study conducted by the Department of Dairy and Animal Science at Penn State University. The two-month trial included two types of feeders and two feed access times.

The feeding trials were conducted at Penn State's Beef

Cattle Research Center by Harold Harpster, Ph.D., and his staff, who evaluated the growth and performance of yearling heifers offered round bale silage in both sliced and unsliced bales produced by New Holland round balers.

The sliced bales were baled with the Bale-Slice™ feature engaged. This feature, exclusive to New Holland's Roll-Belt™ Model 644 Silage Special, slices the bale as it is being rolled

inside the bale chamber.

The baler makes bales 4-foot in width and up to 5-feet in diameter. Up to seven knives rotate into the bale after the core is formed and retract just before the bale reaches its full size. The sliced bale is then secured with twine or net wrap.

"The study shows an overall significantly higher rate of gain in those heifers fed bale sliced forages," said Harpster. "The intake data combined with our

feeding behavior data shows the animals are able to access the material in sliced bales and consume higher levels of dry matter per day. In terms of what this means to the average producer, the benefits are a higher rate of weight gain as well as a denser package when the bale is sliced versus unsliced."

Because of the smaller particle size, the sliced bales, according to the Penn State study, were 14 percent denser than unsliced bales although the slicing action permits easier access and higher intakes by cattle. The Penn State team found that sliced bales weigh 14 percent more than bales produced by the same baler with the Bale-Slice™ feature disengaged.

Heavier bales translate into more crop per bale and fewer

bales per field. This means less twine and net wrap is used, there are fewer bales to transport and store, and less fuel is consumed in harvesting and transporting the bales. Additionally, less crop was wasted because the heifers were able to consume more of the bale.

An additional benefit of sliced bales is their ease of handling in a Total Mixed Ration (TMR) system. "As we handled the bales after the netting was removed," says Dr. Harpster, "they literally fell apart. They'll work much easier in a TMR system."

At the start of the study, the heifers averaged 966 pounds. Over the entire two-month trial, those fed sliced bales gained an average of 2.2 pounds per day, compared to 1.79 pounds per day in the group fed unsliced bales.

Beef Winners Receive Honors At Wayne Fair

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) — The 1998 4-H beef breeding show was Thursday, Aug. 13. Judge was Larry Weaver, New Holland.

The show had representatives from the Simmental and Scotch Highland beef breeds. The grand champion Simmental was Char-Meg-Acres Patsy shown by Charles Megivern. The grand champion Scotch Highlander was Steene Hill Daisey shown by James Bannon.

Following is a list of show placings.

WAYNE COUNTY FAIR BEEF SHOW RESULTS

BREEDS

CLASS 514 JUNIOR HEIFER CALVES: 1. Charles Megivern. 2. Charles Megivern. 3. Charles Megivern.

CLASS 515 SENIOR HEIFER CALVES: 1. Charles Megivern. 2. Luke Megivern.

CLASS 517 JUNIOR YEARLING HEIFER: 1. Charles Megivern. 2. Luke Megivern. **JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE -** Charles Megivern.

RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE - Charles Megivern.

CLASS 521 2-YEAR-OLD HEIFER: 1. Charles Megivern. 2. Luke Rogers. 3. Luke Megivern.

SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE - Charles Megivern.

RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE - Charles Megivern.

CLASS 524 COW SHOWN WITH CALF: 1. Charles Megivern. 2. Charles Megivern. 3. Charles Megivern.

SCOTCH HIGHLAND CLASS 715 SENIOR HEIFER CALVES: 1. Jay Jenkins.

CLASS 716 SUMMER YEARLING HEIFER: 1. James Bannon. 2. Kurt Jenkins. 3. Mick Jenkins.

JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE - James Bannon.

RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE - Kurt Jenkins.

CLASS 721 2-YEAR-OLD HEIFER: 1. Renee Bannon.

SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE - Renee Bannon.



Charles Megivern III, right, Pleasant Mount, and a member of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club, exhibited the junior and reserve junior champions, the senior and reserve senior champions and the grand and reserve grand champion Simmental females at the Wayne County Fair Junior Beef Breeding Show. Jodi Stephens, left, helps to exhibit one of Charlie's champions. Also shown is Larry Weaver, judge of the show.



James Bannon, right, Waymart, exhibited the grand champion Scotch Highland female at the recent Wayne County Fair Junior Beef Breeding Show. Kurt Jenkins, Waymart, and a member of the Creamton Area 4-H Club, exhibited the reserve grand champion Scotch Highland female.



Julle Oliver, second from left, Honesdale, and a member of the Bethany 4-H Club, exhibited her 1,285-pound Angus crossbred 4-H market steer to grand champion at the recent Wayne County Fair Junior Market Steer Show. Nick Nebzydoski, left, Pleasant Mount, and a member of the Pleasant Mount GO-Getters 4-H Club, exhibited his 1,330-pound Angus steer to the reserve grand champion banner award. Larry Weaver, right, New Holland, was judge.

Annual Dinner

EBENSBURG (Cambria Co.) — The 83rd annual meeting and dinner of the Cambria County Cooperative Extension Association will be Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Quinn Center Church Hall at St. John Vianney Church, Johnstown.

This year Dr. Harold Ott, director of the south central region, will discuss the Bosnia Project. Harold was part of a team of five from the city of Johnstown in a sister city exchange with Brcho, Bosnia.

The annual meeting will also include recognition of 4-H leaders, election of members to the county extension board, and presentation of the 1998 report of cooperative extension. Again this year the report will be in the form of a calendar for the coming year.

Make reservations by sending your name, address, phone number, and \$9 per person to Cooperative Extension, P.O. Box 390, Ebensburg, PA 15931. Registration deadline is Oct. 14.

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