

Ayrshire/Brown Swiss Quiz Bowl

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BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — This year the National Ayrshire and Brown Swiss associations held a joint convention in Ellicott City, Maryland. The National Ayrshire/Brown Swiss Dairy Quiz Bowl competition was held in conjunction with the convention. Five junior teams and eight senior teams competed for top honors.

In the junior division, Florida took home those honors. Team members included captain Hannah Huggins, Brady Revels, Tressie Brown and Bryan Rees. The winning team was coached by Mary Sowerby. Maryland #2's junior team members were captain Catherine Perdue, Robert Doody, and Suzanne Perdue from Maryland and William Coleman of

Missouri. They were coached by John Perdue.

After a close competition in the senior division, the Brunettes were named the senior Ayrshire/Brown Swiss Quiz Bowl champions. Team members of the Brunettes were captain Sarah VanOrden of New York, Katrina Olson of Minnesota, Travis Taylor of Texas and Tarn Mower of Washington. The Blondes' team included captain J.R. Fisher of Texas, Terri Lawton of Massachusetts, Kylie Quesnel of Vermont and Kelsey Olson of Minnesota.

The contest kicked off on Wednesday, July 14 with a written exam to determine the seating of the teams. The exam was followed by a single elimination competition.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Farmers Union (NFU) said it was pleased with the Justice Department's (DOJ) decision to not allow a merger between grain giants Cargill, Inc. and Continental Grain Company to proceed as originally proposed.

DOJ announced it would require divestitures in various states in order for the merger to win regulatory approval. NFU has voiced strong concerns about the merger since it was announced last November.

"We commend the Justice Department's recognition that this merger, as originally proposed, would have gone too far," said NFU President Leland Swenson. "The department's careful consideration of the merger and its

impact on farm income sends a strong signal to the industry that they can't just go into the countryside and buy up markets. It is important to know that the administration is watching the situation in rural America and won't stand idly by when farmers face anti-competitive prices."

Swenson added that NFU will continue to press the administration to closely examine the greater trend of concentration in agriculture. A recent wave of mergers across all sectors of the industry has greatly reduced competition in many markets.

NFU said the DOJ's decision will help maintain competition in the major grain and livestock producing regions of the Midwest. There had been concerns that

Continental would use the merger as a springboard into livestock production in those areas. NFU is also pleased that divestitures will be required of facilities on key Illinois River ports that serve as delivery points for settlement of futures contracts.

Under the deal, Cargill will be required to make divestitures in the Pacific Northwest, central California, the Texas Gulf, and Chicago and to restrict ownership of facilities in several areas of the Midwest.

"We will carefully monitor the affected regions to ensure markets remain fair and competitive," said Swenson.

Details of the proposed settlement will be published in the Federal Register to solicit public comment, which will be reviewed by the judge overseeing the deal.

Beef Producers Should Take Steps To Deal With Drought

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Many areas of Pennsylvania are experiencing drought or near-drought conditions. While dry conditions can make humans uncomfortable, they can pose a more serious threat to livestock on farms.

"Beef herds can be severely affected by drought at this time of year," said John Comerford, associate professor of animal science in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "Beef producers need to consider certain management practices during periods of drought and short feed supply."

Comerford offers the following suggestions for producers concerned about the impact of drought of their animals and their farm profitability.

- Be sure plenty of fresh water is available to the herd at all times.

- Be sure there are enough bulls available to service the cow herd. "Droughts can hamper a herd's reproductive management because of the combination of high temperatures and lack of rainfall during the prime breeding season for spring-calving cows," Comerford said. "In fact, it wouldn't hurt if there were a few extra bulls on hand."

Yearling bulls could become overtaxed with more than 15 cows in the breeding group under drought conditions, he said. "The figure rises to 25 cows for a two-year-old bull and 30 to 35 cows for a mature bull." Semen content and quality can be affected by this kind of weather, which may mean extended calving seasons and delayed rebreeding.

- Provide correct mineral supplementation for the cow herd. "Salt, calcium and phosphorus will be most important," Comerford said.

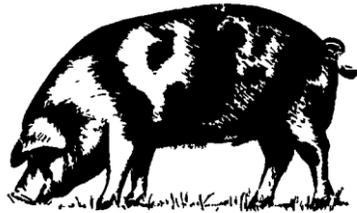
- Consider weaning the oldest calves immediately. "Weaning calves takes the pressure off of depleted pastures," Comerford said. About 1 pound of soybean meal-equivalent protein supplement will be needed for calves of this age. Cows with weaned calves also will need energy and a little protein at this time. "Their lactation is about over, but they need energy to cycle in time to be rebred next year," Comerford said.

"Determine the amount of energy supplement needed by the availability of pasture or the energy value of stored forages," Comerford said. "Corn is relatively cheap right now as a source of energy for both cows and calves. Supplementing poor quality forages with corn may not be the most economical feed for cows whose calves have been weaned, or for calves that have no pasture available." Calves can be removed from the pasture, but will need about 1 percent of their body weight daily of a grain mix plus hay to maintain comparable growth rates to nursing cows on pasture.

- Check the cow herd for pregnancy 60 to 75 days after the breeding season to determine how severely the weather affected breeding. "It's possible that fewer cows than normal will be bred, so you'll have to decide early whether to winter non-productive cows" Comerford said

- When it does rain, rotate the cows on the pastures as much as possible to take advantage of available grass.

For more information about livestock management during a drought, contact the Penn State Cooperative Extension office in your county.



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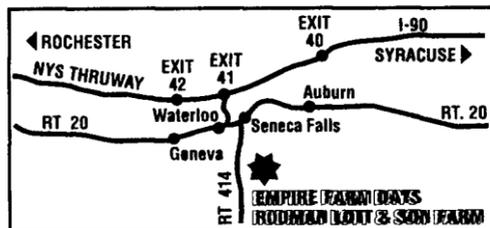
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