

## Ram Lamb Performance Test Results Announced

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Final results from the 2002 Ram Lamb Performance Testing Program conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Livestock Evaluation Center have been announced.

Eighty rams completed this year's program. This test consisted of 26 senior Dorsets, (born Sept. 1, 2001 until Dec. 31, 2001), 16 spring-born Dorsets, 10 Hampshires, 22 spring-born Suffolks, two fall-born Suffolks, three Polypays, and one senior Corriedale.

According to the National Dorset Association, the Livestock Evaluation Center has the largest Dorset testing program in the country and has been designated as a "national test."

Sixty-six rams were selected to be offered in Pennsylvania's 24th annual Performance Tested Ram

The second fastest-gaining spring Dorset was the second highest indexing, with a final index of 113 and is owned by Melana Lovell.

The three Polypay rams consigned by Robert Smith will be sold next and all three of these rams were genetically tested to show that they contain the scrapie resistance gene.

The two fall-born Suffolk rams, consigned by John Scott Jr., both gained in excess of one pound per day on test, and maintained lifetime weight per day of age of 1.04 and 1.08 pounds per day.

Rounding out the ram sale consignment is the fall-born Corriedale that was owned by Roger Bowman.

For more information about the Performance Tested Ram and Invitational Ewe Sale, the Sheep Producers Field Day or

## 'Cash Cow' Goes To Washington

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family-owned enterprise would face hardship if they were sued. "We operate on razor-thin margins and cannot afford to settle, even for a frivolous lawsuit," he said. "We could potentially face economic ruin."

He added that this would affect, in turn, the company's 200 employees, the feed company,

any of Pennsylvania's performance testing programs, contact Pa. Dept. of Agriculture Livestock Evaluation Center, c/o Glenn Eberly, 651 Fox Hollow Rd., State College, PA 16803. Phone: (814) 238-2527 or (814) 865-5857. E-mail: geberly@state.pa.us or geberly@psu.edu.

Many of these rams were genetically tested to determine if they contain the gene for scrapie resistance. Results will be available at the sale.

and 60-65 farmers who grow chickens for the business.

Dan Shaul, president of the Mid-America Grocers Association, said that "grocery stores work hard to provide high quality products and have seen a tremendous amount of challenges in recent years. We can ill afford more battles to cut into our margins. We will eventually have to pass that on to the consumer," said Shaul.

The U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform and the Food Marketing Institute hosted the group's visit to Washington.

Should it become law, the bill would make it easier to move large class-action lawsuits from state to federal court.

In addition, the Plaintiffs Bill

of Rights includes judicial investigation into settlements where consumers receive little compensation in comparison to large legal fees, a requirement that settlement notices be written in "plain English," prohibit settlements where class members lose money to pay attorneys' fees, and ensure a fair and even distribution of damages awarded to all plaintiffs.

The cow, Anchor Mere Co-Dream from Culpeper, Va., is owned by the Dwayne D. Forrest family, operators of Anchor Mere Farm.

His daughter, Kelly Jo, at the cow's halter during the event, recently graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute with a degree in dairy science.

Lamb and Invitational Ewe Sale scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 3. In conjunction with the sale, the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association will conduct their annual field day. Officials at the Livestock Evaluation Center are expecting approximately 60 top quality invitational ewes to be offered for sale. The ewes will be sold immediately following the ram sale which is scheduled to start at 2 p.m.

First in the ring will be the 23 fall-born Dorsets.

The top-indexing senior Dorset will be lot number one. This ram, a triplet, gained .99 pounds per day and has maintained a lifetime weight per day of age of .99 pounds per day. This helped him attain an index ratio of 121.

The Orchard Crest Farm consignment was the second-highest indexing fall-born Dorset, with a final index of 116.

Next to sell will be the 19 spring-born Suffolks. This breed group will start with the Justin Smith ram that gained 1.26 pounds per day on test, with a ratio of 147 and a lifetime weight per day of age of 1.10 pounds per day of age. This ram was the fastest-gaining ram over all breeds and he attained the sales highest index ratio of 126.

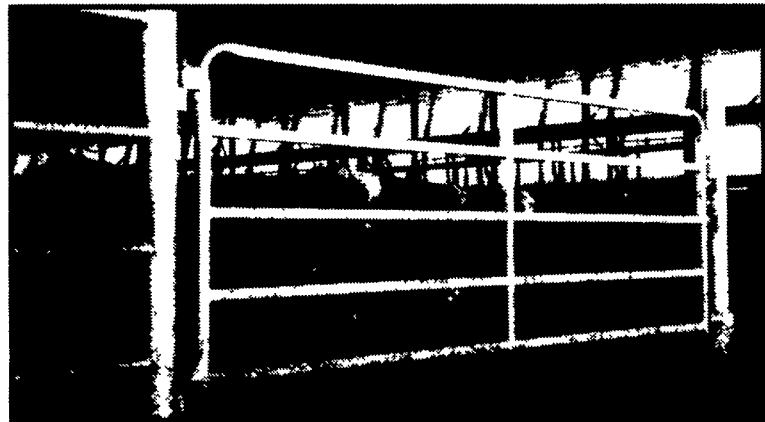
Pine Haven Farm bred the second-highest indexing and gaining spring Suffolk.

The Hampshire division will be led off by the Morris Pratt consignment who was the top-gaining and top-indexing Hampshire. This ram also exhibited the largest loin-eye area among the seven Hampshires.

Next will be the 11 spring-born Dorsets, led off by the Hollystone Farm consigned ram that gained 1.04 pounds per day on test and maintained a lifetime weight per day of age of 1.17 pounds per day. He also had the second highest index of the sale with a 124.

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