

# Virginia Cattlemen, Women Conduct Beef Expo, Celebrate 50 Years

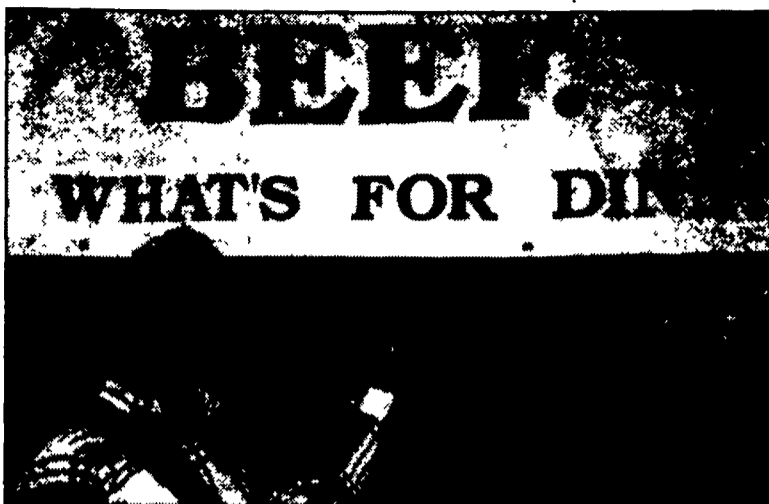
GAY BROWNLEE  
Virginia Correspondent

HARRISONBURG, Va. —

The 14th Virginia Beef Exposition took place April 18 and 19 at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds here. In conjunction with the Virginia Cattlemen's Association's 50th anniversary celebration, the event was billed as the largest beef oriented-trade show in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Visitors hopeful of evaluating exhibits found they could do so both indoors and out. On hand were trailers, pharmaceuticals, artificial insemination supplies, watering and feeding equipment, fencing supplies, cattle-handling equipment, mineral and feed additives, vaccines, farm equipment, livestock, ag publications, and more.

Participants in hay evaluation, forage knowledge and beef stockman's contests were presented with various opportunities to prove the depth of their knowledge and skill with regard to hay bale weight and quality, forages, and cattle.



Virginia Beef Queen Amie Knick touts beef as "nature's best multi-vitamin."

Samples of new products were offered and beef cooking demonstrations took place at intervals throughout the two days. Informative brochures and handouts intended for consumer education were readily available. These generally provided the answer to

whatever beef-related question that arose.

The purebred sales of Angus, Hereford, Limousin, Red Angus, Simmental and Tarentaise beef breeds dominated the schedule of Friday activities. Some 270 head of cattle were consigned by breeders from a number of states,

including those as far as Iowa and Missouri.

Auctioneers for the event were Gary Vance, Strasburg, Va., Red Angus and Tarentaise; Mike Jones, West Point, Ga., Angus and Limousin; Dale Stith, Guston, Ky., Hereford; and John Spiker, Simmental.

Amie Knick from Lexington was selected as the 2003 Virginia Beef Queen in a contest sponsored by the Virginia Cattle Women. Throughout the coming months Knick will traverse Virginia to tout beef as a great choice for any menu.

"Beef is a very safe meat," said Knick. "It is nature's best multi-vitamin and contains iron, zinc, protein and B-vitamins."

Approximately 100 commercial replacement heifers were sold at the expo. Each one was certified through the Virginia Premium Assured Heifer Program. Additionally, pen bulls were available for private treaty sale.

Youth events featured a beef showmanship contest and the youth Red Angus, Simmental,

Hereford, Angus, Shorthorn and Steer shows.

The Virginia State Cattle Working Contest found the competitive edge sharp between 10 teams demonstrating their skills before a large group of spectators.

The FFA and 4-H members were judged on knowledge of beef quality assurance, product administration and cattle handling as they processed a group of stocker cattle.

The Cattlemen's group became official in April, 1953, and has since grown to its current membership of 6,000.

Member Reggie Reynolds, executive secretary, noted in an article that recapped the association's history: "The latest new feeder cattle merchandising tool is Virginia Quality Assured (Ear Tag) Feeder cattle, which was developed in 1996."

Reynolds added that in 2002, some 5,000 head of Virginia Quality Assured feeder cattle with known genetics and health were sold.

## Pennsylvania's Red Meat Production Up 7.2 Percent In 2002

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Commercial red meat production in Pennsylvania during 2002 totaled 1252.6 million pounds, dressed weight basis, up 7.2 percent from a year ago, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS).

Commercial cattle slaughter, at 1,040,900 head, was up 9.0

percent from last year. Of this number, 1,037,200 head were slaughtered in federally inspected plants. The federally inspected slaughter consisted of 46.7 percent steers, 8.4 percent heifers, 41.9 percent cows (of which 73.5 percent were dairy cows), and 2.9 percent bulls and stags.

Beef production, at 1329 million pounds live weight, was 10.0 percent more than 2001. Average

live weight per head was 1,277 pounds, an increase of 12 pounds from last year.

Commercial calf slaughter, at 190,300 head, was up 11.6 percent from a year ago. Veal production, at 64.87 million pounds live weight, was up 3.4 percent from a year ago. Average live weight per head decreased 27 pounds to 341 pounds per calf.

Commercial hog slaughter, at

2,628,400 head, was up 3.9 percent from last year. Of this number, 2,623,200 head were slaughtered in federally inspected plants. Barrows and gilts made up 99.9 percent of the federally inspected slaughter. Pork production was 649.0 million pounds live weight, up 4.1 percent from 2001. Average live weight increased 1 pound per head to 247 pounds.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 70,200 head, was up 22.1 percent from last year. Of

this number, 69,600 head were slaughtered in federally inspected plants. Lambs and yearlings made up 90.5 percent of the federally inspected slaughter. Lamb and mutton production was 7.3 million pounds live weight, up 24 percent from a year ago. The average live weight increased 1 pound to 103 pounds.

There were an estimated 331 commercial slaughter plants in Pennsylvania on Jan. 1, 2003, of which 114 were under federal inspection.

## MEETINGS

### FOR ALL DAIRY FARMERS

Learn more about the CWT (Cooperatives Working Together) program proposed by the National Milk Producers Federation.

The CWT program is designed to improve milk prices by bringing supply and demand in balance. The major Northeast dairy cooperatives will be holding joint informational meetings to update you on the details of this farmer-controlled program and answer any questions you may have. Cooperative members, independent dairy producers, and agribusiness professionals are all invited to attend.

#### New York:

Little Falls	5/14	7:30 pm, Best Western
Waterloo	5/14	7:30 pm, Holiday Inn
Oneonta	5/15	7:30 pm, Holiday Inn
Cortland	5/16	7:30 pm, NYS Grange
Owego	5/16	10 am, Treadway Inn
W. Chazy	5/19	7:30 pm, Miner Institute
Canton	5/20	9:30 am, Best Western
Batavia	5/22	7:30 pm, Holiday Inn
Watertown	5/27	7:30 pm, Best Western
Morrisville	5/28	7:30 pm, SUNY Morrisville
Lowville	5/28	9:30 am, Elks Club
Falconer	5/28	7:30 pm, Ross Grange
Greenwich	5/29	7:30 pm, Elks Club
Kanona	5/29	10 am, Tally-Ho Rest.
Cuba	5/29	7:30 pm, Cuba VFW
Middletown	6/2	7:30 pm, Holiday Inn

#### Maryland:

New Midway	5/28	10 am, New Midway Fire Hall
Oakland	5/28	7:30 pm, Pleasant Valley Community Ctr.

#### Pennsylvania:

Ulysses	5/14	7:30 pm, First Citizen Bank
Peach Bottom	5/15	7:30 pm, Peach Bottom Inn
Martinsburg	5/15	7:30 pm, Morrison Cove Park
Bellville	5/15	10 am, Bellville Livestock Mkt.
Mt. Joy	5/16	10 am, Acorn Conf. Ctr.
Millheim	5/16	7:30 pm, Millheim Fire Hall
New Holland	5/20	10 am, Yoders Restaurant
Intercourse	5/20	7:30 pm, Harvest Drive Rest.
Greencastle	5/22	7:30 pm, Kauffman Ruritan Bldg.
Williamsport	5/23	7:30 pm, Pine Run Grange Hall
Georgetown	5/27	7:30 pm, Bart Firehall
Whitneyville	5/28	10 am, Tioga Cty Fairgrounds
Elk Lake	5/28	7:30 pm, Elk Lake Fire Hall
Towanda	5/29	10 am, Towanda Country Club
Lebanon	5/30	7:30 pm, Expo Center

#### Delaware:

Hartley	5/15	10 am, Hartley Fire Hall
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Meetings also being held throughout New England.

Information can also be found on line at: [www.dairymarketingservices.com/cwt](http://www.dairymarketingservices.com/cwt) or by calling the Northeast CWT hotline at 1-888-858-7813.

Dairy cooperative sponsors include DairyLea Cooperative, Dairy Farmers of America, Agri-Mark, St. Albans Cooperative, Allied Federated Cooperatives, Inc., Conesus Milk Producers Cooperative Association, Mount Joy Farmers Cooperative Association, Oneida-Madison Milk Producers Co-op, and Cortland Bulk Milk Producers Co-op among others.

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