

'A Bull Named Sue' Sells For \$30,000

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff
WELLSVILLE (York Co.) — JM Sue, a 30-month-old Longhorn bull bred and raised in York County, recently sold for \$30,000.

Shawn Pequignot of Crazy Cattle Company, Wellsville, sold the record-breaking animal to Hudson Longhorns of Mississippi. The bull was bred by John

Muir of JM Longhorns, Glen Rock. Pequignot had purchased it as a 6-month-old calf. Pequignot said the bull unofficially sports the longest horns of any bull in the country, measuring 65 inches — almost five and a half feet — from tip to tip.

Horn length is a highly desired trait among Longhorn breeders, according to Pequignot.

"That's the name of the game in the Longhorn business," he said.

Pequignot keeps about 25 Longhorn cattle on his 50-acre farm. He has been raising this old breed for seven years.

Pequignot, a builder, first got interested in the cattle while building a house next to a farm where some Longhorns were kept.

While Pequignot raises Longhorns mainly for breeding purposes, he also sells some beef, known for its leanness.



JM Sue claims the longest horns in the country for a bull his age.

Prevention Is Best Cure For Flies In Poultry Houses

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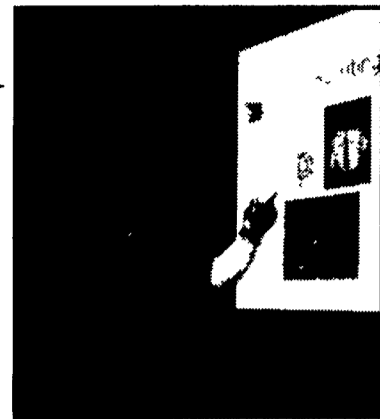
MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — Fly control is becoming more crucial on commercial poultry operations, in part because people are moving ever closer to farms.

Greg Martin, Penn State poultry agent, delivered that message and a number of pest-control pointers at a recent Poultry Management and Health Seminar at Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim.

"The 'city' is moving our way," Martin said. "Neighbors may have a different tolerance level for flies, odor, and dust than you do."

Martin outlined integrated pest management (IPM) methods for a variety of pests, including beetles, mosquitos, mites, lice, rodents, birds, cats, and people.

But the main focus of his presentation was on how to master the pesky, prolific housefly.



Greg Martin points out the importance of pest scouting in poultry houses.

Martin said that good IPM practices can be portrayed by a pyramid, similar to the USDA food pyramid.

Prevention practices are at the base of the IPM pyramid, representing the first and most important steps to take in controlling pests.

Basic preventative steps include good sanitation measures and environmental controls. These are much less costly and labor-intensive than measures to control flies after they've become a big problem, Martin pointed out.

"Water is the number one key element in fly control," Martin said.

For that reason, poultry managers need to restrict water (and feed) spillage as much as possible, rotate waterers so that spill areas can dry out, and maintain a good ventilation system.

Scouting for flies is important, according to Martin. There are a number of tools that can be used for monitoring populations, including jug traps, walking sticky tape, and speck cards.

"Any repeatable method works," Martin said. He mentioned one producer who uses masking tape successfully for checking fly numbers.

As pest populations grow, it may become necessary to move up the IPM pyramid and start using methods that better match the level of infestation. These include physical and mechanical methods (such as traps, lures, and fly 'zappers') and biological controls (such as parasitic wasps).

At the top of the IPM pyramid are chemical controls, including conventional pesticides.

Not only are these materials more costly, there is also increasing evidence of pests becoming resistant to some of them, Martin noted.

"Chemicals are really the last ditch effort," he said.

One new practice being tested by Penn State for pest control is in-house composting of manure piles in the pits underneath layer hen floors.

Carbon sources such as shredded newspaper are added to the manure, facilitating the composting process and generating heat. Temperatures of more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit might kill fly larvae, according to Martin.

Composting also reduces mouse numbers by creating an environment that is too hot for the little rodents to survive in the manure piles.

Forced air drying of poultry manure is another option for fly control. When manure moisture levels are less than 50 percent, flies are unable to eat, Martin said.

IPM is newer to the poultry industry than it is in some other areas of agriculture.

"A lot of the things I've talked about the vegetable people have been doing for years and years," Martin said.

For more information about IPM, check the Penn State Website at <http://paipm.cas.psu.edu>.

About 20 people from the poultry industry attended the meeting. Paul Patterson and Michael Hulet, poultry science professors at Penn State, were also on hand for the seminar.

Penn State extension organizes four such meetings per year on pertinent poultry topics.

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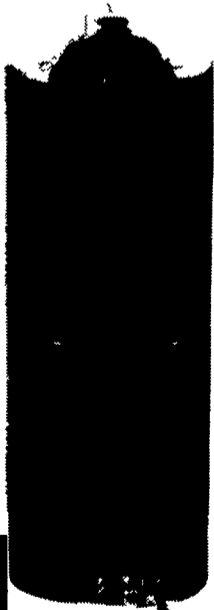
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