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Butz Predicts Imports And Controls

Dr. Earl Butz, former U. S. Secretary of Agriculture presented the keynote address to over 230 beef cattle ranchers, A. I. industry, extension, and university personnel at the 13th Annual Beef A.I. Conference. The conference was sponsored by the National Association of Animal Breeders, NAAB and the NAAB Beef Development Committee in January 13, at the Denver Hilton Hotel.

Owners of almost 28,000 breeding aged cattle, from 31 states and Canada gathered to hear the outstanding lineup of speakers discuss topics crucial to genetic improvement of beef cattle.

The keynote address, delivered by Dr. Earl Butz, was entitled "Cattle, Carter and Congress". Dr. Butz commended ranchers and farmers for having done a tremendous job of feeding America more cheaply than ever before, this year, for 17 per cent of the take home pay. He further stated that this was possible due to the application of science, research, technology, brain power and imagination. However, Butz pointed out that agriculture is essentially energy conversion and that we must become even more efficient. He emphasized the need to double food production in the next 25 to 30 years and stated that man's number one challenge is to increase the efficiency of food production. We must fight the efforts in Washington to cut back on basic research or we cannot double food production in the next 25 years.

Somehow we must move this conversion ratio in beef to a lower figure than we now have and A. I. is one of the ways to do it. In this phase of the cattle cycle, with cattle prices at a pretty fair level, this is the opportunity to do it.

Butz said that milk production per dairy cow has been doubled in the last 15 to 20 years, and although not all of it is due to A. I., a good deal of it is. With the selection of superior sires and being able to extend that semen over more females, the A. I. industry has an enviable track record in the dairy field. We need more acceptance of that same thing in the beef field. The opportunity is there. Butz said that he believes the accomplishment will be evident in the beef industry within the next ten years, due to the pressure that will be put on us to increase the efficiency of energy conversion. Cattlemen and ranchers are becoming more labor and cost conscious and this means a great opportunity for increasing A. I. work in the beef cattle industry because it is more economical.

In addressing the beef import, and wage and price control situations, Butz predicts that although we are only recovering from the additional 200 million pounds of imported beef that Carter authorized in June, 1978, cattlemen will probably face a similar situation this summer. Further, Butz noted that the President does not currently have the authority to impose wage and price controls. The President

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is trying a lot of things right now to control price and they aren't working very well, nor will they work. He is treating the symptoms, not attacking the real cause. The real cause being the continued deficit, the virtually uncontrolled expenditures, and wage settlements that far out pace productivity increases. Butz went on to predict that as the pressures continue to build, Congress will give the President standby wage and price authority.

Chairman of the opening session, Ancel Armstrong of New Breeds Industries introduced Dr. Wallace Erickson, NAAB President, and Manager of Coba/Select Sire, Incorporated, addressed the topic which revolved around the conference theme, "Superior Genetics With Beef A. I."

Dr. Peter Burfening, Professor of Animal Science, Montana State University, addressed the topic of "Superiority of Simmental Sires in A. I. Service". In his presentation, Dr. Burfening noted that bulls in A. I.

studs are much better proven than are non-A. I. sires, with two to four times as many progeny proofs for birth weight, calving ease first calf, calving index, 205-day weight, and 365-day weight, than non-A. I. sires. Further, Dr. Burfening concluded that the bulls in the A. I. studs summarized in his study are superior to the non-A. I. sires for growth rate and maternal traits. However, A. I. sires also sired calves that were born with more difficulty than the non-A. I. sires, which is correlated with emphasis on superior growth rates.

Dr. C. K. Allen, Executive Vice-President, American Angus Association, presented "Superiority of Angus Sires in A. I. Service". Dr. Allen stated that A. I. bulls are clearly superior for weaning weight and yearling weight. However, they are only average or a little better on maternal equivalent breeding value. Sire evaluation indicates again that the bulls being used artificially are superior on growth data and on cutability but not on birth weight and carcass quality.

"Genetic Impact of A. I. Based on

Proven Bulls" was discussed by two beef cattlemen: Jess Kilgore, Three Forks, Montana rancher, and Gray Coyner, Assistant Manager, Fleetwood Farms of Delaplane, Virginia. Kilgore said that all genetic input into their herd has been on the sire side and this by A. I. - - - at least to the extent that virtually all replacement matings since 1961 have been from A. I. matings. He further stated that through the use of A. I. and proven sires they have added 160 pounds to their average weaning weights since 1960.

Coyner illustrated the improvement they have seen over the past eight years in increased weights and more desirable grades. He further emphasized that "These increases are due to the use of superior bulls that only A. I. can provide and the return of their daughters as replacements to improve the cowherd".

The second session commenced with program Chairman, Kenneth Young of American Breeders Service.

"Management Alternatives with Estrous Synchronization" were discussed by two representatives of the A. I. industry. Roy Wallace, chairman, Beef Programs at Select Sires, Incorporated discussed two prostaglandins being tested, "Lutalyse" manufactured by The Upjohn Company and "Estrumate" produced by ICI Americas. The way in which these products work in the reproductive cycle of the cow and several possible applications to breeding management were reviewed by Wallace. He further noted that the horror most people have about synchronization programs, that of all cows calving on one day, does not happen. The calving will spread out 110 days from the due date and the peak will occur 5 days of the due date.

Dr. Ronald Long, vice-president of Marketing at Curtiss Breeding Industries, discussed the synchronization product manufactured by G. D. Searle & Company, "Syncro-Mate B". In his presentation, Long reviewed several breeding regimes possible with the Syncro-Mate B product. He went on to emphasize the regime most often recommended as being applicable to more operations and also as being the most cost and labor efficient, involved mass insemination without heat detection. Long pointed out the advantages of synchronization programs as being: 1) more efficient utilization of A. I. 2) elimination or reduction of heat detection 3) less stress on man and animal 4)

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BUTS PREDICTS

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shorter breeding seasons 5) shorter calving seasons 6) uniform calf crops. However, he emphasized the need for a proper attitude, realistic goals, taking time to make it work, the use of a quality A. I. program, and making sure animals are "eligible" for breeding, as critical ingredients for a successful synchronization program.



CHAMPION STEER

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Dick Burns and Weaver Angus Farm, Peoria, Illinois.

Reserve Champion Angus Steer was a 1,215-pound entry of Judy Fitzpatrick, West Terre Haute, Indiana. Her steer sold to Billy Martin Western Wear of New York City, owned by Billy Martin of the New York Yankees who was on hand to do the bidding. The animal sold for 90¢ a pound.

Feeder Steer Winners

Grand Champion Feeder Steers was a pen of Angus crossbreds shown by Jim Ellsworth, Leadore, Idaho. The steers were sired artificially by MSU Freestate 343 and out of crossbred cows. The feeder cattle shown as pens of five and six head can be sold at auction. The six steers brought an average of \$3,650 per head, with the top steer cashing at \$5,100.

Reserve Grand Champion Pen of Feeder Steers was the Champion Angus entries of Goldspur Cattle Company, Collinsville, Oklahoma. The steers averaged 628 pounds and sold at auction for an average of \$1,683, with the top steer bringing \$3,700.

Reserve Champion Angus Feeder Steers were exhibited by Uhrig Ranch, Hemingford, Nebraska. The steers weighed 668 pounds and sold for an average of \$891 per head.

Judging the feeder cattle show were Bob Dorsey, Eaton, Colorado; Stanley Butt, Havanna, Illinois; and Willard Wilson, Thermopolis, Wyoming.

Carcass Show Winners

The Champion Angus Steers and the Reserve Grand Champions of the show were shown by Orval Hartman, Pueblo, Colorado. The carcasses averaged 649 pounds and graded USDA Choice with an average yield grade of 2.25. The average fat thickness over the 12th rib was .4 inch and the loin eyes averaged 12.91 square inches.

Champion Angus Heifers and

Reserve Grand Champions of the show were exhibited by Reynolds Cattle Company, Longmont, Colorado. The carcasses averaged 600 pounds, graded USDA Choice with a yield grade of 2.8. Fat cover averaged .54 inch and the loin eyes averaged 11.9 square inches.

VET MED LOSS

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involved a hemophilia bleeder trait, an eye defect, a skin condition which makes cattle extremely susceptible to temperature changes, and a reproductive system abnormality.

Twelve other cattle being used by

Dr. Leipold in other research either were outside the barns or were evacuated from the barns. Possibility of losses among these animals is high because of exposure to near zero temperatures and because of smoke inhalation.

Also lost in the fire was a goat used by another professor for teaching purposes.

The fire was discovered at 4:45 p.m. by a Kansas State University student working at the barns. The University and Manhattan Fire Departments responded to the fire alarm and were