

High feed costs, low prices knocked by area cattlemen

By JACK HODGES
Staff Writer

Trapped between inflationary feed costs and low meat prices at the market, cattle raisers have organized statewide with the three-week old Brazos County group boasting already 4,000 supporters.

The state association has over 100,000 members in more than 100 counties.

In order to stay alive in the cattle industry, beef imports need to be restricted or cut out all together, said Dr. C. E. Payne, president of the local association at Thursday's meeting.

"The cattle business is either dying or is dead because the imports are reducing the wholesale prices to about 20-35 cents per pound," Payne said. To build forces we have joined the Independent Cattlemen's Association, on the statewide level, to obtain a lobbying voice on the national level, Payne said.

This lobbying voice has never been heard before and we need to have it now when we are having so much trouble, he said. "We are going to vote people into office who share our views or we will vote the ones out that do not support cattle business," Payne said.

"The U.S. is about the only port that allows foreign beef imports; there are others, but they import little or none," Payne said. The foreign countries send the meats

over here at a cheaper price and the quality of meats is poor, Payne said. About half of the beef comes from Australia and New Zealand, he said.

Payne quoted a six month survey made by T.A. Cunningham, president of the state association, which said, beef imports have doubled in the past six months of this year to almost 2.7 billion pounds from 1.3 billion pounds in 1973.

United States Department of Agriculture statistics show that the imported beef for last year was 1.3 billion pounds and an estimated 1.1 billion pounds will be imported this year.

"We have not been able to get anyone in the USDA to certify the figures we have found," said Payne, speaking for Cunningham. We think the figures speak for themselves, Payne said.

The USDA received figures from shipping invoices, duty tickets and meat inspection teams, Dr. Ed Uvacek of the Agriculture Extension Service said. Cunningham said his figures came from IBM run sheets from every port in the nation.

According to a USDA Economic Research Service publication, "the spread between the packer and retailer for the first quarter of this year was \$2.00. For the second quarter it was a dollar less. This was all based on a 1,100 pound steer at \$482.50 pound retail cut," read the publication.

"Meat on the hoof for good and 'The Forand Writer,' another 1973 work coauthored by Dr. Forrest Burt.

Two 1971 publications are new including "The Unity of English," coedited by Drs. Harrison Hieth, C. D. Laverty and Kroitor.

The volume editors say inclusion is based on "achievement by reason of experience and training, a stature in scholarly work equivalent to that associated with the doctorate and/or achievement evidence by publication of scholarly works."

Also appearing for the first time in the directory are "Malcolm Lowry," a 1973 work by Dr. Richard Costa

butcher calves, which are U.S. good or choice, runs for 21 to 25 cents per pound and the packer can put it on the rail for about 38 cents per pound. You know what the retail price is," Cunningham said in his report.

The Cattlemen's Association is calling for the imported beef to be labeled so that the consumer can tell what type of meat they buy. Often the imported beef is mixed with American beef which has higher quality, Payne said. The consumer needs to know what he is paying for, Payne said.

"As long as the U.S. continues to import beef the worse the situation gets for the independent cattleman," Payne said. If our production falls off 20 per cent, they increase imports 20 percent, he said.

The next meeting of the local association will be in the Caldwell Sale Barn at 7 p.m. tonight. Cunningham will give a progress report of what has happened and what the next step will be for the state association.

Chartered bus will not go to Austin

Charter bus service to Austin for Friday's game has been cancelled due to the confusion resulting from the Greyhound Bus strike.

Hank Wahrmond, who was in charge of arranging for the charter said he didn't want to take any chances on last-minute problems students might have in making alternate arrangements. Since Greyhound drivers returned to work on a temporary agreement, the possibility of a second work stoppage still exists.

Wahrmond said that at the time of the strike he had less than half a busload signed up for the trip. With that and the apparent grim outlook at the negotiating table, he decided that the best way to get the students off the hook was to cancel the trip well ahead of time.

National recognition given to professors

Seven members of the TAMU English faculty appear in the new edition of the "Directory of American Scholars," three new additions since the fifth edition was published in 1969.

Drs. Dennis Berthold, Jerome Loving and Cleve Want are the new names.

Five books authored by English faculty members since the previous volume appear, including a 1974 publication of "Five Hundred-Word Theme," revised and edited by Dr. Harry Kroitor.

Also appearing for the first time in the directory are "Malcolm Lowry," a 1973 work by Dr. Richard Costa

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