

Going to the Fair

THIS CHAPTER is devoted to some of the miscellaneous but very important items concerned with showing the cattle.

Health Papers

Be sure to observe the health regulations and rules at the fair in which you are going to be showing. These can be obtained from the premium lists sent out by each fair, upon request. The animals to be exhibited should be tested for T.B. and Bang's Disease — and health papers should be furnished, as requested.

Registration papers for the animals to be exhibited should accompany the animals to the fair.

Before leaving for the fairs, the animals should be vaccinated for shipping fever by the local veterinarian. This is very important and will protect the health and life of the animals.

Transportation

If you truck your animals to the fair, try to get a truck in which the animal can be protected from drafts by having the front end closed. In cool weather the truck should have a canvas top and the sides enclosed. When transporting the animals in cool weather, it is advisable to have them well blanketed. The truck should

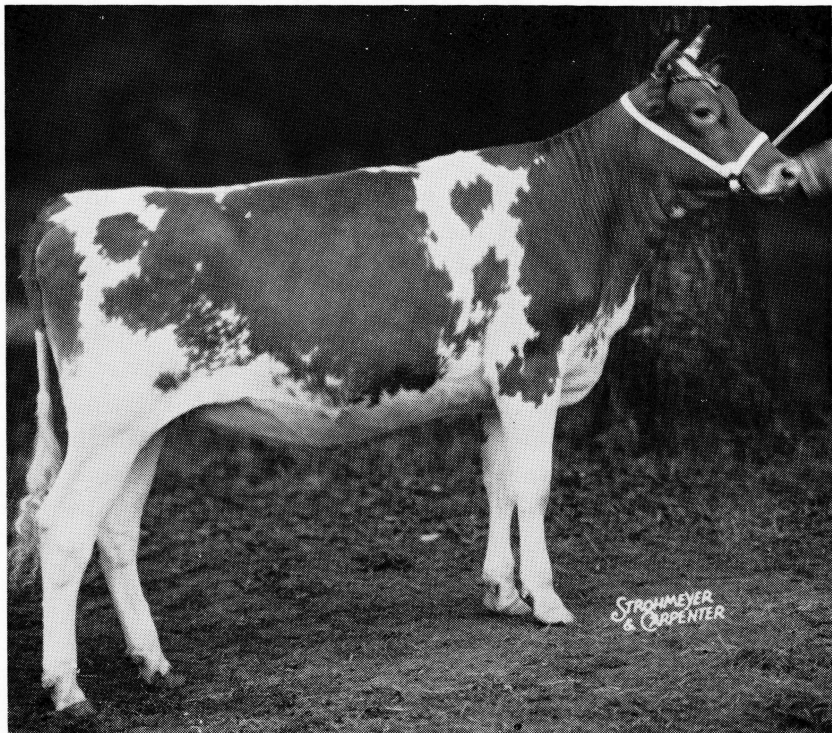
be well bedded and the animals tied in. The cattle can face either the front end of the truck, or stand crossways. However, if placed crossways, be sure that the animals are not too long or they will rub all the hair from their tails and pinbones.

Loading and unloading the animals should be done carefully, with loading chutes of the proper height. There should not be any cracks between the chute and the truck where the animal is apt to slip a foot in and scrape the hide off, severely sprain or even break a leg. Also, when loading to or unloading from a truck, be sure the emergency brake is pulled on the truck.

When transporting large numbers of animals a considerable distance, it is often wise to use a boxcar and ship by train. If you're shipping in hot weather, use wooden cars where the boards run lengthwise — so that several boards can be taken out about two feet from the floor at the back of the animals, and one or two boards taken out in front of the animals about three feet from the floor. This will allow for ventilation and help keep the animals cool. The boards should be replaced, of course, during cooler weather. Here, too, some of the longer animals may have to stand lengthwise in the car so that they will ride more comfortably and be easier to work around.

It is often advisable to use partitions about 5 feet long and $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high between the bulls and cows, giving each one a separate stall. It helps to have stalls about 5 or 6 feet wide, in which two yearling heifers or three calves may be tied. Stalls $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 feet wide for the larger cows are ample in size. Stalls 3 feet wide

HEIFER CALF



Curtiss Candy Oriole

1st Heifer Calf, Dairy Cattle Congress, International, 1950; Member, 1st Junior Get of Sire, Dairy Cattle Congress, International Dairy Exposition, 1950.

This heifer calf has lots of style, a fine clean head that shows alertness and strength. Notice her smooth shoulders, long body and long level rump.

for the two and three-year-old cows generally are large enough. The uprights in the partitions should be of strong 2 x 6 lumber and well anchored both top and bottom with blocks, so they will not shift or break in transit.

Strong gates should be securely fastened across the doors of the cars so there will be no possibility of any animal getting out of the boxcar.

Decks can be built of the desired length and width about six feet from the floor of the car so that feed, hay, bunks for the men, and all show equipment can be stored, leaving more room for the cattle.

Some arrangement should be made for carrying water. This is sometimes done with barrels in which blocks of wood have been placed to keep the water from splashing. A better arrangement is to have steel tanks that are covered, or fuel tanks to which a faucet has been attached for convenience in drawing water at feeding time. Tanks may often be placed on the deck or on a small but sturdy framework and securely fastened to the inside wall of the boxcar.

Bedding

While the cattle are being exhibited at the fair, they should be well bedded at all times. Straw which has been covered with wood shavings makes a good bed. Apply the shavings on the top of the straw so they will sift down through. This type of bedding seems to hold together better and absorb more moisture. Keep a generous supply of this bedding underneath the animals, and keep the line of the bedding straight and neat. This will add to the attractiveness of the exhibit.

Neatness

Try to keep your exhibit, both cattle and equipment, as attractive as possible. Manure should be kept picked up at all times and the animals kept very clean, with their switches washed daily and well brushed out. The aisles should be swept frequently, and the feed, bales of hay, and straw should be neatly stacked in the feed aisle, if there is one present at the fair. All show trunks and equipment including forks, brooms, and feed buckets, should be painted neatly, kept clean, and arranged in an orderly manner. (Separate forks should be used for the manure and the hay, in order to cut down the spread of disease.) Blankets that are used on the cattle should be brushed each day to remove the manure and dirt, and washed whenever necessary.

For the information of the people who are interested in your particular breed of cattle, put name cards giving the name of the animal, birth date, sire and dam, and records of the dam and owner's name and address above each animal.