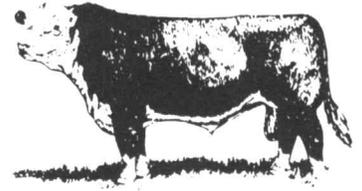


It's No Bum Steer on Your Christmas List



Penny Jarecki

What does an "ordinary" beef animal have to do with Christmas? Most of us would say that beef's contribution ends with a roast for dinner, but there is a little more to it than that.

For example, a baseball and glove, a handbag, a pair of boots, cosmetics, and bone china are just a few possible Christmas gifts that are made from the by-products of the beef animal.

And beef by-products add to the holiday season in other ways. Gelatin from bones and horns is used in the making of marshmallows, ice cream, and gelatin salads. Fats yield oleo stock and oleo oil for margarine and baker's shortening. Bones, horns, and hooves give us piano keys and non-edible gelatin for photographic film. Christmas card scenes are painted with brushes made from the fine hair of the ear of the beef animal.

Our homes are warmer because of the base for insulation material that comes from cowhide, and it is a by-product of the cowhide that gives a binder for the plaster on our walls. Cow hair is also used in making rug pads.

It is hard to believe that Christmas shopping would be a lot different without beef by-products. Yet hide by-products act as a binder in asphalt, stearic acid is vital to the manufacture of tires, and bone charcoal is essential in the production of high grade steel ball bearings.

But the greatest gift derived from beef by-products is pharmaceuticals, for cattle are walking storehouses for a variety

of life-saving, life-improving drugs. More than 100 individual pharmaceuticals, currently known and in use, perform such vital functions as helping to make childbirth safer, settling an upset stomach, preventing blood clots in vessels of the heart, spurring a sluggish thyroid, controlling anemia, and helping babies digest milk.

Insulin from the beef animal's pancreas is a gift of life to 1.25 million diabetics in our country that require insulin daily. It takes the pancreas from 26 cattle to provide enough insulin to keep one of these diabetics alive for one year.

Relief from pain and suffering through improved medical techniques and research is another gift we get from the "ordinary" beef animal. Thrombin from the blood, which helps create blood coagulation, is valuable in the treatment of wounds. Thrombin is also used in skin grafting to keep the graft in place. Blood is used in many types of cancer research; the thymus gland is used in lung cancer research. The list goes on and on.

You may call a beef animal "ordinary", but I say a beef animal is kind of a miracle. First there is this wonderful protein factory that converts cellulose that man can't eat into delicious food for us that is loaded with nutrients.

But it is the little thought of beef by-products that go on enriching our lives and making us more comfortable long after the beef is eaten. And I think that is miraculous!

I also think we beef producers are all mighty fortunate to be able to spend our working days raising and caring for something that is as special as the "ordinary" beef animal... one whose year-around "gifts" make life more jolly in so many ways. Merry Christmas! ●

Editor's Note: Penny has just finished a terrific year as president of the Montana CowBelles. She is the first CowBelle president ever to receive a standing ovation at the annual Montana Stockgrower Association convention. Congratulations!

National Conference on Renewable Natural Resources

The national Conference on Renewable Natural Resources will take place November 30 to December 3, 1980 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The Conference will center around seven resource working groups composed of resource leaders from throughout the country who have been nominated by the various sponsoring organizations and others. Each working group will consist of about twenty invited delegates, assigned to specific working groups in such a way as to provide a core resource team in each group, complimented by experts from each of the other resource specialties. The aim will be to provide a mix of disciplines so that the report developed by each group will reflect as broad and integrated an approach as possible.

With the aid of invited papers distributed prior to the meeting, each working group will be asked to assess current information on the status of their resource area, identify

major issues expected to affect protection and production of the resource in the coming decade, and develop a recommended strategy for improving resource conservation and utilization to meet anticipated national needs.

Sponsoring organizations in addition to the American Forestry Association are: International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, The National Wildlife Federation, The National Association of Conservation Districts, The Society of American Foresters, The Wildlife Management Institute, Trout Unlimited, The National Cattlemen's Association, Forest Farmers Association, Sierra Club, Izaak Walton League, National Audubon Society, Society for Range Management, and National Forest Products Association.

Further information and registration forms are available from *The American Forestry Association, 1319 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.*