



### 3,500 Lb. Steer Still Growing

His color is wrong, but outside of that he has all the earmarks of being a relative of Babe, the Blue Ox. He's King, a 3,500 lb. cross between an Ayrshire cow and a Chianina bull, owned by Arthur Delmas, of Nowata, Okl.

For many years, Delmas was an artificial inseminator for Curtis Sires and did a lot of experimenting with various crosses. Since he also operated a registered Ayrshire dairy, many of his crosses involved Ayrshire cows. He's no longer in the dairy business.

"I don't have a cow on the place," says Delmas, "just steers." However, none of the rest of his steers come anywhere near King's estimated 3,500 lbs.

"The last time we weighed him, he was 20 months old and weighed 2,200 lbs. He went through the floor of the trailer when we took him to the scales. I don't recommend using the Chianina as a cross because they take too long to mature. These cattle are a real old Italian breed and were originally bred for use as oxen as well as milk and meat. I don't know how big he will eventually get."

Three years ago Delmas sold King to Rell Schwab, Jr., an oil producer, who gave him to a group to raffle off. A man from Missouri won him. "He came down and took a bunch of movies of him, then sold him back to me rather than try to haul him," explains Delmas. "King wasn't nearly as big then as he is now."

Wanting to see how big he would finally get was one of the reasons Delmas repurchased King. However, he would like to find another home for him.

"I would like to see him kept somewhere where he could run loose. And where people could see and enjoy him. We have talked to some people on the phone about him, but I don't think they realize just what we mean when we say he's a really big steer."

What is the record for the "biggest ever" steer? One of the biggest ever recorded was a Holstein, belonging to A. M. Richards, Bellows Falls, Vt., that topped the scales at 4,625 lbs. At that rate, King only has about 1,000 lbs. to go to break the record. **by Charlotte Smith**

### Turn Used Twine Into Money

Hold it! All that scrap twine you've been burning or throwing away is worth money.

"We pay 10¢ a lb. for all used twine that comes in with the knots cut off. We'll accept used twine of any size, shape or length from anybody in any quantity. It must be sisal — no plastic twine — and the knots must be cut off. Also, it must be dry." Cletus Hansen, plant superintendent of the Miller Waste Mill, Winona, Minn., told FARM SHOW.

Hansen's company processes the twine and resells it for use in making automotive filters. He notes that the company has access to alternative materials imported from other countries but buys used twine as a public service. "If we didn't buy it, it would go to waste. And many groups and organizations who collect twine as a fund raising project would lose an important source of revenue," explains Hansen. "We can use all the used twine we can get so long as we can buy it for 10¢ a lb. At a price higher than that, other substitute materials become too competitive to pass up."

The day FARM SHOW visited with Hansen, 8 different farmers had brought in several tons of used twine. One farmer had close to 10,000 lbs. loaded in the grain box of his 16 ft. truck.

Hansen notes that shipping costs limit how far twine can be hauled and sold at the going rate of 10¢ per lb. "It may be feasible for farmers or groups to gather up large quantities of twine, then hire a scrap iron yard to bale it so as to compact it

for economical shipment to our plant. Or, individual farmers may figure out some way to bale up twine in their own hay balers to compact it for economical shipment."

In many cases, collecting used twine has become an important fund raising project for 4H clubs, FFA groups, and for organizations looking for ways to provide jobs for developmentally disabled persons.

"It's a very good project," says Jackie Pangborn, instructor at the Chippewa County Development Center, Chippewa Falls, Wis. Jackie was instrumental in launching the Center's twine program. "We were looking for ways of earning money for our developmentally disabled adults. Thanks to this project, which requires removing the knots in twine, they have improved or developed their working skills. I think what they especially gain is self pride, a feeling of accomplishment. For some, this is the first time they've earned money. They can be productive."

The Center relies on 4H clubs, FFA Chapters, farmers and other to collect twine. Local feed mills have also started collecting twine from farmers and the Center picks it up twice a month. Basically, all the Development Center does is cut off the knots, bundle the twine and ship it to Miller Waste Mill, Winona.

For more information on selling used twine, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Miller Waste Mill, Cletus Hansen, plant supervisor, 580 East Front Street, Winona, Minn. 55989 (ph 507 454-6900).

### Colored Paper Marks Haylage Layers

Color coding silage or haylage as it's blown into the silo helps Gene and Perry Dockter, Twin Brooks, S. Dak., keep track of exactly what they're feeding. The Dockters, who milk 95 cows, keep a record of every field of alfalfa put in the silo by blowing in colored paper with the first few loads hauled off the field. As colored material is fed out of the silo, indicating the start of a new batch from a new field, they take a sample of the haylage and have it tested for quality.

"We use any kind of paper that isn't toxic and is a color that will show up in the haylage," explains Gene Dockter. "This can be a white or brown feed sack, or it can even be cloth. We have also used long straw, and blue paper towels designed for washing cow's udders. We tear the paper into bits about 1 in. square and blow it up into the silo with the load. It only takes one sack, or about 1 lb. of paper to mark a location inside the silo."

Dockter adds that it's easy to spot the paper when it's unloaded with the silage or haylage. "The cows may eat some of it, but it is mostly picked over and avoided by the cattle," he points out.

The number of places marked in the silo depends on how different the hay or silage crop seems to be. The Dockters always mark to indicate indi-

vidual fields, and also to identify different parts of the field for unusual conditions, such as haylage that got caught in a heavy rain.

Dockter explains, "It can take a long time to harvest a big field, especially if there is a rain delay, so protein quality at the end of the harvest can be several percentage points lower than at the beginning as the alfalfa matures."

A sample bag corresponding to a color-code layer in the silo is marked with a simple identification, such as "brown paper at 20 feet" or "blue paper at 4th door". The laboratory test then indicates whether that batch is high, low or average in protein, and supplements can be added as needed when that batch is fed.

The system works good for either top unloading or bottom unloading silos, say the Dockters who store haylage in both a big Harvestore and a big concrete stave silo.

"Our feed has been high enough in protein (22% last year) that we don't have to buy protein, but we add vitamins and minerals as indicated by the forage samples," says Gene Dockter.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gene and Perry Dockter, Route 1, Twin Brooks, S.D. 57269 (ph 605 432-4230).