

TRIBUTE TO GREATNESS

Top Dollar Livestock

What are the top prices ever paid for farm livestock? To find the answers, and to help settle a few friendly wagers, FARM SHOW tracked down these current world's "best sellers".



Photo courtesy Wisconsin Holstein News

Million Dollar Cow

Allendairy Glamourous Ivy, a top-ranked Holstein owned by Tom Pearson, Greenleaf, Wis., set dairy cow sale records when the top bid reached \$1,025,000 at a recent dispersal sale. Bought by Cormdale Farms,

Inc., Georgetown, Ont., she'll reportedly be used for embryo transfers. Ivy's rated at Excellent-962E. Her dam was an Excellent-96-3E and a 1971 All American four-year-old.

\$42,500 Hog

The top-selling hog is a Duroc named "Glacier" that sold for \$42,500 at the 1979 Southwestern Duroc Congress where he was named Grand Champion of the show. Born on the Russ Baize farm, Stamford, Tex., Glacier was bought by Meinhart Farms, Inc., Hudson, Iowa. A Duroc representative says that Glacier fit the 'type' of hog sought after at that time —



tall, long, lean and with a loose muscle pattern — a trend that has since changed.



\$1,500,000 Bull

"High Voltage", an Angus Bull owned by Jeff Bricker, Bear Creek Angus Rance, Cameron, Montana, along with two other ranchers, recently sold for \$1,500,000. The 1983 National Western Stock Show Grand Champion has a long line-up of offspring champions and was sold to Leatherstocking Farm in Easton, N.Y. Bricker indicates that the new owner won't begin selling High Voltage semen until 1985.



\$45,000 Ram

The highest-selling ram at a public auction was "Veggs", a registered Suffolk. Owned by Mike Nelsh, Dundee, Ohio, half interest in the ram was purchased by four other Suffolk breeders for \$45,000. The five owners used Veggs — the 1979 Supreme Champion at the North American Livestock Show — to build up their flocks.



"The Christmas Crib" flower shop, on left, was formerly the corn crib on the Behren's farm.

"BEHRENS FLOWER SHED" BEGAN IN THE CHICKEN COOP

On-Farm Flower Shop

By Dianne L. Beetler

A dozen years ago, farm boy Jim Behrens, of Rock Falls, Ill., took a junior college course in ornamental horticulture. He was horrified to learn that instead of studying landscaping, he would be studying floral design. But, not wanting to waste his tuition, he took the course anyway. To his surprise, he enjoyed the class.

Shortly after he graduated from high school, Behrens opened a floral shop on the family farm. "We cleaned out the chicken coop house and added a lean-to on the front," he recalled.

As business improved, he expanded into other buildings on the 160-acre farm where his parents, Bob and Sally Behrens, still live.

With the help of friends and relatives he enlarged the three-car garage and used it for retail space. Next, he converted the corn crib into the Christmas Crib, filled with Christmas decorations as well as silk flowers and wedding supplies.

Then Behrens added several buildings onto the Christmas Crib. The buildings are connected by wooden sidewalks. Other businesses — a craft shop, a computer book-keeping service and a tea room — rent

space in the complex.

"Old Town Hall," one of the largest rooms, serves as a banquet hall for wedding receptions and private parties.

Thousands of people visit the shop annually, not only to buy flowers, but also to see Jim Behrens' unique decorating techniques.

In the "Potting Room", for example, Behrens placed an old wooden wagon that had belonged to his grandfather. Plants in the room hang from old ladders, and the display tables are old cable spools obtained from a telephone company.

In the former chicken coop, Behrens left the chicken nests in place to display merchandise. All the shops have a country atmosphere — inside and out. Geese wander through the barnyard, and "Behrens Flower Shed" is painted in large letters on a grain bin on the farm.

Behrens employs six other people at the shop. "We put in long hours and long days. It's a lot of work, but yet it's fun."

For more information, contact: Jim Behrens, 1512 Prophet Road, Rock Falls, Ill. 61071



Jim Behren's specialty is creating floral designs.