

## Letter From Louisville

By E. W. Lang

For some reason there are no dairy shows in December, but January brings the Ft. Worth Show in Texas, and February brings the Florida State Fair, held annually in Florida, obviously.

I went to Ft. Worth last year. The Longhorns were fun, and they had a lot of Brown Swiss beef cattle down there called Braunvieh. It was the first that I had seen or heard of them, and I don't remember any professors saying anything about them while I was in university, though it may have been part of an early morning lecture, delivered before 11 A.M.

There was also a family that had been showing one particular beef breed at Ft. Worth for 200 years, double our number at the Iowa State Fair this year.

As for the Florida State Fair, for many years my friend, native New Yorker, one time Extension Dairyman, Holstein Fieldman, legendary Curtiss Ad Man, Dairy Shrine Secretary and ISU Alumnus Miles R. McCarry, sent a post card inviting me to the Florida State Fair gathering of the Elder this and Emeritus that of the retired, registered dairy cattle community that "weren't dead yet."

I always wrote back to Mac with regrets, using a manual typewriter that I kept, dedicated exclusively to this annual reply.

So now that the unseasonably cold North American is over, thoughts of warmer shows seem appropriate, along with some comments on Louisville, now past.

The North American effectively democratizes the registered dairy cattle show industry in that it's a big show that's not Madison. There are seven separate youth shows. Many actual farmers in the area can exhibit in open class, and be a part of the show community.

While World Dairy Expo may be the mother of all shows, the North American is a cousin that works for a living and drives a good used car. That may sound like it discounts Louisville's status, but it is what increases the show's value to registered livestock owners. It makes Louisville a more accessible, less intimidating open show. And it's a more inviting, constructive, inclusive junior show for those who want to participate. All of this enhances the total value of registered dairy cattle ownership.

I realize that the Jersey All-American Show is the standard for that breed. By being in Louisville, it brings along some, sometimes distant, entries from other breeds in ancillary fashion. Also, the Jersey Cattle Club hemorrhages some thousands of dollars that enhance their National Show, and subsequently contribute to the North American as a whole. Net on the All-American last year was a minus \$12,000 for the Jersey Cattle Club. The state of Kentucky, Commonwealth actually, contributes something over \$4,000,000 to the annual livestock event, or so I was told a couple years ago.