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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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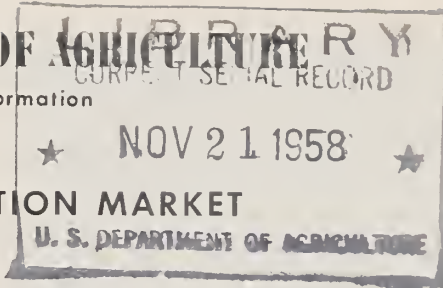


PHOTO SERIES NO. 10

LIVESTOCK AUCTION MARKET

JULY 1958

USDA photographs showing unloading, sorting, and auctioning of livestock at a Maryland market. This market was built in 1954. The livestock to be auctioned is brought by truck, principally from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the Carolinas. Like other eastern markets, this is a "covered" or "roofed" market, as contrasted with the "open" markets in the West. The livestock sold is bought by farmers, packers, and others. These photographs were taken for the Agricultural Marketing Service.



N-24739--Unloading dock where livestock brought by truck are delivered to the market. All shippers hauling bulls, cows, and heifers from out of State must list the number and kind of animals, tell where the livestock was loaded, supply the owner's signature and address, and specify that the animals are for slaughter only.



N-24738--Individual consignments are kept in separate enclosures having gates that swing both ways to form pens and alleys. Platform of unloading dock is same height as floor of truck to facilitate unloading.



N-24737--Many calves are brought to the market. Each animal is numbered and a record kept of the owner's name and address. Other features of the unloading are the same as those described in N-24739 and N-24738.



N-24734--Another overhead shot at unloading dock. This picture was taken from a walkway above the pens and alleys, permitting owners, bidders and others to view the animals prior to sale.

Magazines and newspapers may obtain glossy prints of any of these photographs from the Photography Division, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Others may purchase prints, at \$1.00 each (8 x 10), from the same address.



N-24736--After being recorded and tagged as they come off the trucks the animals are guided to pens and alleys. Separate alleys, divided into pens, are provided for each species. Here a consignment of calves is being driven into a "calf" alley.



N-24766--Cows coming down alley after being received and recorded at unloading dock. These animals will be penned prior to sale, and may be viewed from overhead walkway by owners, buyers, and visitors.



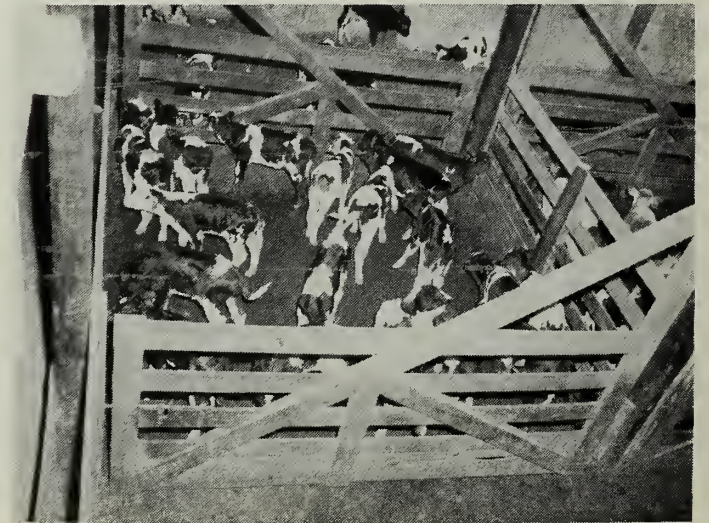
N-24740--Overhead shot of cattle in pen, awaiting sale.



N-24765--Another view of penned animals awaiting sale.



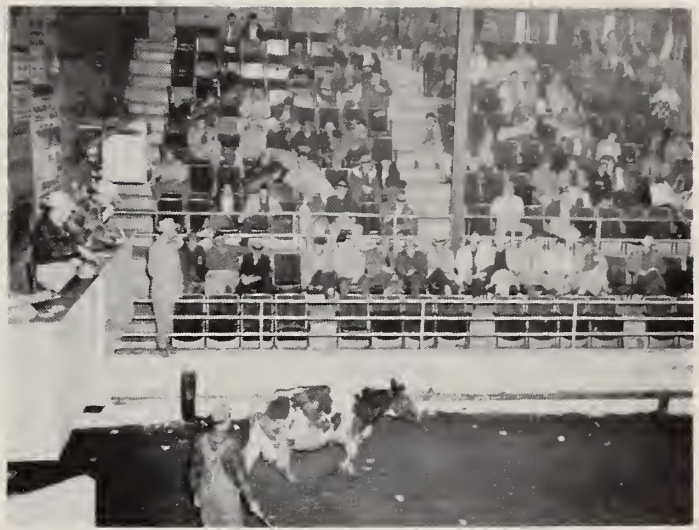
N-24742--In this pen the calves are sorted for grade. This enables prospective buyers to view each lot of similar-grade calves. All choice grade veal calves go into one pen. The identity of each animal is kept by means of a tag affixed to an ear or pasted on the calf's back.



N-24744--View of graded calves after they have been sorted and penned prior to sale.



N-24773--Cattle entering auction ring from holding pen. The animals are weighed automatically in an enclosure beneath the auctioneers, as the animals are driven from holding pens into the ring. The weight appears on the scales back of the auctioneers and a weighmaster registers the average weight on the illuminated sign overhead.



N-24763--Prospective bidders and spectators in auction ring. Each man signals his bid to the auctioneer who calls the bids through a microphone and loud speaker at left. Each bidder has his own way of bidding with a nod of the head, the position of a hand, or by finger. The man astride the railing is encouraging the bidding.



N-24758--Animals may be sold individually or by lots, according to the wishes of the owner. Average weight of these pigs is 105 pounds, as shown by the illuminated sign overhead.



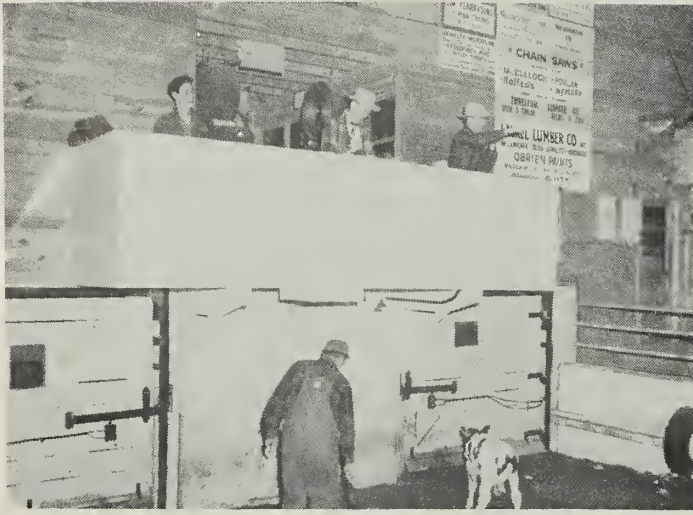
N-24764--Another view of auction ring. The man with the cane (extreme right) is signaling a bid to the auctioneer whose "sing-song" is much like that of a tobacco auctioneer though more intelligible to the uninitiated.



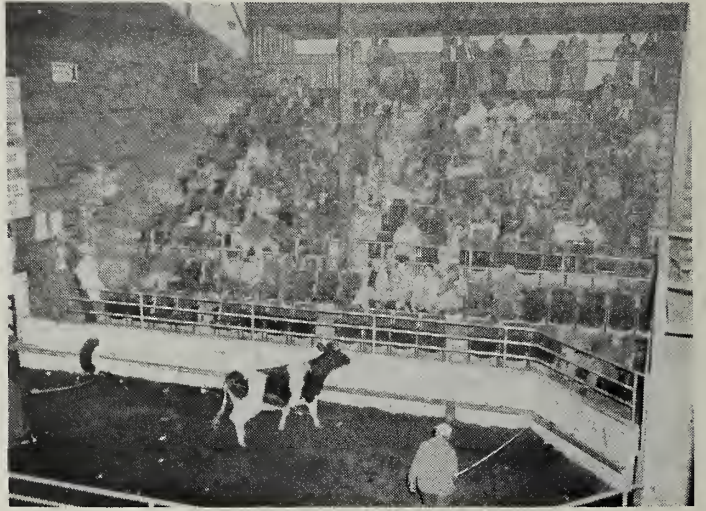
N-24753--Sheep from nearby farms also are sold at the auction. These three, having lost some wool in a barbed wire entanglement, drew a laugh from the audience, but sold for a good price, just the same.



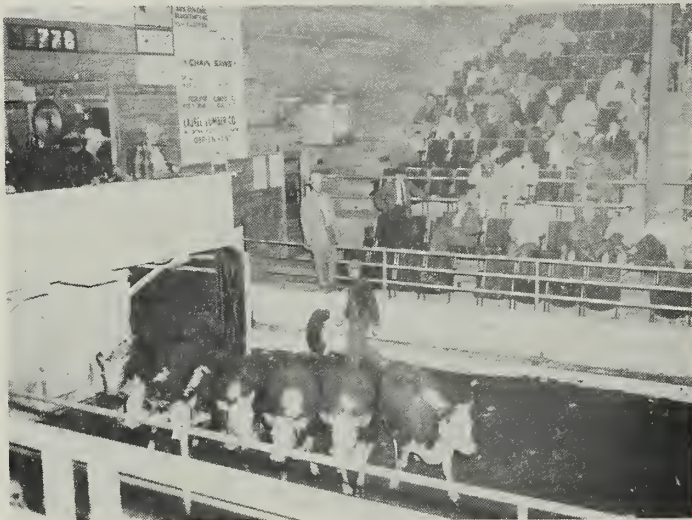
N-24757--This little pig weighs only 105 pounds, as registered on the illuminated sign back of the auctioneers. Either left or right entrance from pens into auction ring may be used.



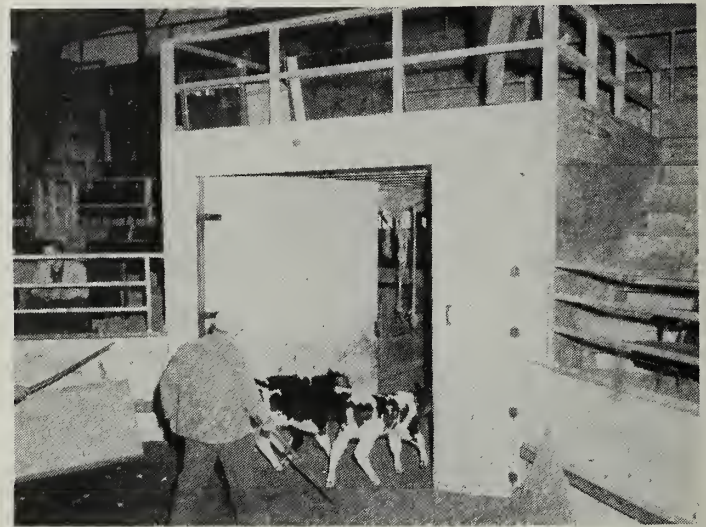
N-24747--Auctioneer calling bids. An alternate auctioneer assists the man at the mike.



N-24761--Another front view of bidders and spectators in auction ring as animal is being turned to face bidders.



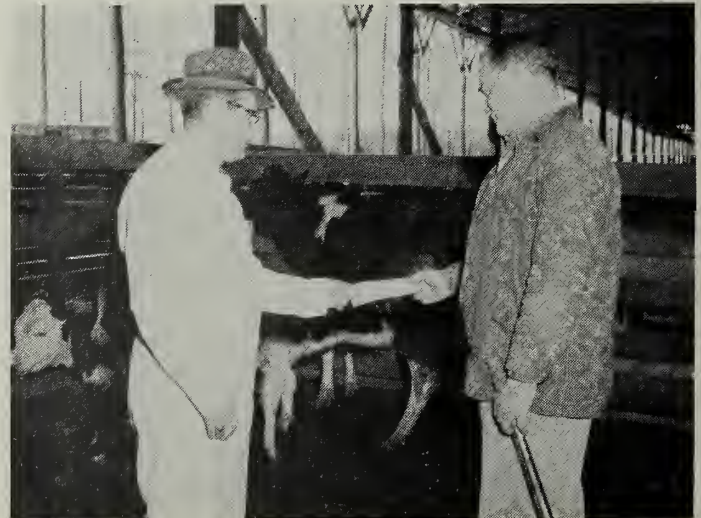
N-24685--A lot of likely cattle averaging 778 pounds each. Animals bought at the auction may be intended for feeding, breeding, or slaughtering.



N-24750--After being sold the animals are driven through gate at opposite end of auction enclosure, into buyers' holding pens to await shippers' orders.



N-24769--Government veterinarian checks calf for mouth condition and age. Stocker andfeeder calves, dairy cattle, and breeding bulls going back to farms for feeding or breeding must be free of brucellosis disease and so certified by veterinarian.



N-24770--Animals going to farms for feeding or breeding may not be shipped until inspected and certified by veterinarian. He is handing a certificate to yard attendant.