

Agriculture Breeder's school in Ontario

After being held in western Canada for the first three years, the Canadian National Breeders School moves to Ontario for 1991. The fourth annual session is scheduled for July 31 to August 4 at the Kemptville Agricultural College, Kemptville, Ontario. "Ontario always has had a solid base of cattlemen, both at the purebred and commercial levels," noted Neil Gillies, Canadian Charolais Association's Manager of Genetic Improvement. "Too often we think of Ontario as just the feeders and end-product consumers of western bred and raised beef." As with previous years, the Canadian Charolais Association is the major sponsor and organizer of the school.

The school, which is relevant for breeders in all breeds of beef cattle, utilizes a variety of teaching methods, including "hands-on" demonstrations, classroom sessions, and informal evening discussion groups. The school participants will be accommodated in the Kemptville College student dormitories. Meals will be served at the college cafeteria.

Again this year and for the fourth consecutive year, the school will be led by three main instructors: Dr. Roger Hunsley, Executive Director of the American Shorthorn Association; Dr. Harlan Ritchie, Professor of Animal Science at Michigan State University; and Dr. Gary Minish, Dean of Agriculture, Virginia Tech University. As with previous years, the Canadian Charolais Association has lined up several guests to assist in organization and instruction. In 1991, the school will feature three beef specialists from the Ontario Ministry of Food and Agriculture (OMAF). Those regional specialists will help to give the school a uniquely Ontario perspective.

Gillies labels the cast of instructors as "future thinking individuals who will serve to help us plan breeding programs not just for the year ahead, but for five and 10 years ahead." He emphasizes that the school is aimed at the level for the regular cattleman. "We're not going to spend a lot of time discussing abstract hypothetical concepts which have little impact on everyday, common sense beef production."

With the general mandate to "better equip cattlemen for their role in the beef business," Gillies said the school is not limited just to purebred cattle breeders. "We're supply opportunities for learning on topics that feedlot operators, commercial producers and consumer-end beefmen can benefit from." Topics will include: carcass grading (with a look at the new Canadian grading system changes), the use and development of Estimated Progeny Differences (EPD's), selection and evaluation of slaughter stock, and the selection and evaluation of breeding females and bulls. Including the Canadian Charolais Association, major sponsors of the school include Coopers Agropharm, the Ontario Charolais Association, and MSD AGVET.

This year's fee remains unchanged from 1990 at \$395.00 (GST included). Gillies indicated that registrations were ahead of the 1990 pace and that the school is already more than half full.

Kemptville is located 25 miles south of Ottawa.

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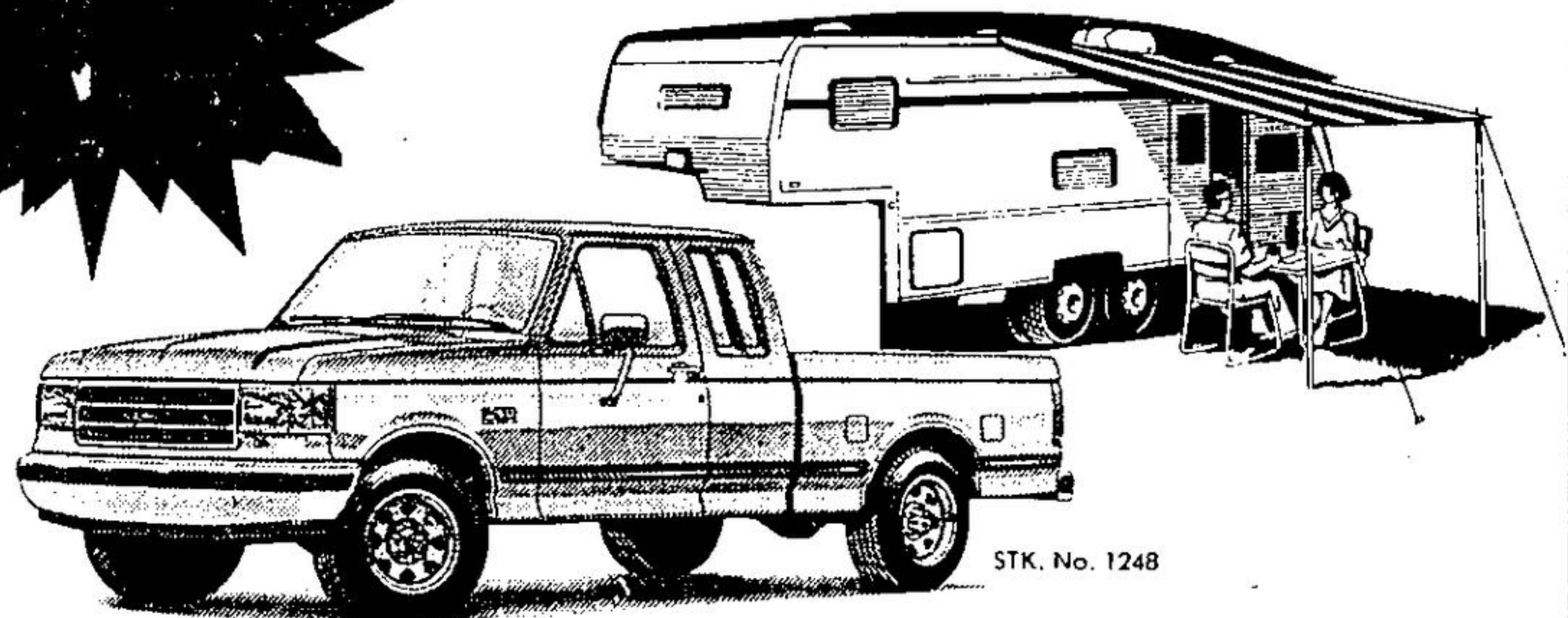
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