Louisiana Cattle Festival and Fair will be held Oct. 25-26 in Abbeville

ABBEVILLE
The Louisiana Cattle Festival and Fair has changed its name from the Louisiana Dairy Festival in recognition of the contributions made to Southwest Louisiana by the cattle industry.

Southwest Louisiana, and Vermilion Parish in particular, leads the state in cattle production, and the festival, as in the past, will honor outstanding industry leaders in beef production as well as dairymen.

Festival honorees
Honorees will include Bob Odom, Louisiana commissioner of agriculture as festival king, and Sidney Ory, Lafayette business and civic leader, who is being cited for his leadership of civic and charitable causes in Acadiana.

Humanitarian of the Year is Mrs. Henry Barnes, founder of the Bares Ranch for the Mentally Retarded near Erath.

Pecan Island
Cattleman of the Year is Glenn Veazey of Pecan Island. He is president of the Vermilion Parish Cattleman's Association, and was chosen as outstanding by the Louisiana Cattleman's Association.

Resturateur of the Year is Doug Steed, proprietor and head chef of the Old South Restaurant, Abbeville.

Parade Marshall will be Warren Updike of Lafayette, president of the Louisiana Cattleman's Association.

Special luncheon
The honorees will be recognized at the special luncheon at noon on Friday, Oct. 24 at the Abbeville American Legion Home on Highway 14 East. Sam Thériot, festival chairman, will be master of ceremonies.

The judges for the queen's contest on Friday evening will be Jeff Hingle, Buras, secretary of public works for the State of Louisiana; Mrs. Butch Taber, director of the Louisiana Convention Bureau; Beverly LaSalle, Baton Rouge, under-secretary of the Department of Culture and Recreation, also co-chairman of the Miss Baton Rouge pageant; Jack Heindinger, manager of the men's clothing department, Maison Blanche, Baton Rouge; Ralph St. Amant, Norco, chairman of the St. Charles Parish Festival. Master of ceremonies for the contest will be Paul LeBlanc, Gonzales, president of the Jambalaya Festival.

For the grand parade at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, a total of 20 marching groups are expected, including bands and drill teams. About 25 contestants for the title of festival queen, and 12 visiting queens will also be riding in the grand parade.

Further information regarding festival events can be obtained from Sam Thériot, (318) 893-2665, or Mrs. Roy Thériot (318) 893-3230.

Festival history
The last Dairy Festival was held in 1978 and the first Cattle Festival was held in 1979, emphasizing the increasing influence of the cattle industry.

The first Dairy Day Festival was held in Abbeville on Saturday, Sept. 24, 1949.

Roy R. Thériot who was manager of the Abbeville Chamber of Commerce, was the originator and founder of the festival.

Then Louisiana Governor Earl Long addressed the people who attended the one-day event. There were 15 bands in the parade, which was the largest and the longest ever staged in Vermilion Parish at that time.

Hilda Robicheaux of New Iberia was the first Dairy Queen. Sharing beauty honors with Miss Robicheaux was Glenda Anne Hollier, the Junior Dairy Queen.

Eventually the length of the festival was increased to four days, usually beginning on Thursday and ending on Sunday. The queen is still chosen from among the many young ladies of the area who enter the contest.

Sidney C. Ory, Lafayette business and civic leader, has been named Honoree of the 1980 Cattle Festival and Fair for his contributions to civic and charitable causes.

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