

The Giddings News

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THE FAT STOCK SHOW

The editor visited the Fat Stock Show in Fort Worth, which continues all this week. The last count was 4,940 animals on exhibition, which is 301 more than last year. It did not look like hard times or depression to see all those fine beef and dairy cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, poultry and farm products. The value of the live stock shown was more than a million dollars. Premiums offered in the live stock division amount to \$80,000.

The Fat Stock Show has a history. It did grow up spontaneously. It was a hard struggle to establish it in 1897 and continue it for a few years until its future became assured. The Fat Stock Show was the fight against the old-time Texas longhorn steer and in favor of the short-horn for beef and dairy types. Later when sheep and hogs were added to the exhibits, a protest by the old cattlemen was registered.

The importance of good stock was stressed during the early years as an educational feature of the value of quality products. Cattlemen soon took up the idea that improved stock was better than the native longhorns, and pure-bred stock breeding was greatly hastened. The Fat Stock Show continued to grow until Fort Worth became the cattle center of the Southwest and the largest packing houses were located there. The growth of the live stock industry in Texas was greatly encouraged by the Fat Stock Shows.

The buildings were destroyed twice, but are now rebuilt in concrete and are fireproof. The exhibits of live stock, agricultural products, mercantile and automobile displays are very large and causes Texans to feel a pride in this great showroom in the various kinds of displays. Many visitors attend the show.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the show is the rodeo and horse show with \$25,000 as prizes, which are held daily in the large hall. The spirit of the Old West is kept in fancy and trick riding, steer wrestling, calf roping, bronc riding, fancy horse show, and features of other years when spurs, lariats and cowponies were known before radiators, speedometers and freewheeling came into use. The rodeo was especially fine this year. We would like to tell you about it but lack of space forbids.