

Fundraiser nets \$45,000 for livestock exchange

The first part of rebuilding to begin in April

By DON DEL ROSSO
Times-Democrat Staff Writer

A fundraiser for the Fauquier Livestock Exchange last month at Barrel Oak Winery near Delaplane cleared about \$45,000.

"Everything we took in went right to the rebuilding fund," said Jerry Hall, chairman of the exchange's fundraising committee. "It was amazing."

Last fall, a fire of unknown origin destroyed most of the exchange at Route 55 and Zulla Road near Marshall.

Proceeds from the Feb. 26 Barrel Oak gathering will pay for a "humane" cattle-handling system, livestock officials said.

The exchange sold 350 tickets at \$25 apiece, said Hall, a livestock exchange board member and

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Jerry Hall

Delaplane cattleman.

"We could have sold a couple hundred more, if we had the room," he said. "That's why we're thinking about doing

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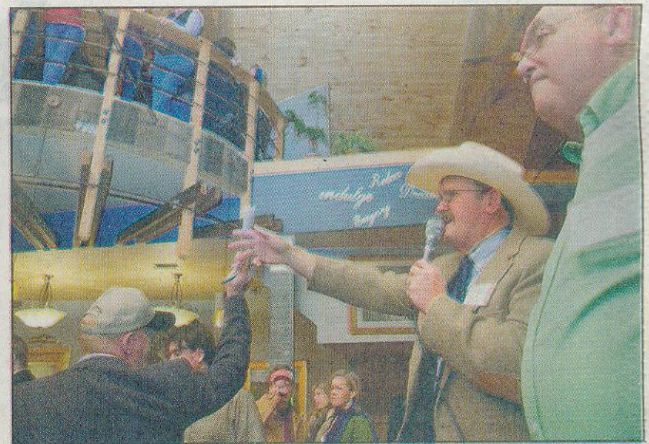


Photo by Alisa Booze Troetschel

WHO'LL GIVE ME A DOLLAR: Auctioneer Roger Beavers, left, and Jerry Hall direct bidding at a fundraiser for the Fauquier Livestock Exchange, held at Barrel Oak Winery, that collected \$45,000 to help rebuild the exchange.

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another" event at Barrel Oak.

Barrel Oak owner Brian Roeder said he'd like to do more for the livestock exchange.

"If they approach us, we'd be happy to do" another event, said Roeder who estimated that the winery and he personally contributed more than \$4,000 in services and money for the fundraiser.

"We thought [the event] was really important for the cattleman. The livestock [exchange] was a big loss," Roeder said.

Of the 40-plus fundraisers Barrel Oak has hosted since it opened Memorial Day weekend

2008, the livestock exchange event proved the most successful, Roeder said.

Previous top fundraisers brought in \$10,000 to \$12,000, he said.

The \$25 ticket fee for the exchange event included live music, food and a glass of wine. A live and silent auction featured donated items.

"Everything was donated," Hall said. "The food was donated by Whitehall Farm in Warrenton."

At no charge, Roeder and his staff planned and coordinated the event. He paid for a full-page advertisement in the *Times-Democrat* promoting the fundraiser. He also hired and paid for the live band. And he bought several auction items.

Eight winery staff members served wine by the glass and

sold bottles. Roeder charged the exchange about \$5 per glass of wine, half the typical going rate. He also contributed 10 percent of all bottle sales to the cause.

Exchange cattle manager Lindsay Eastham praised Roeder and his staff. "The people at Barrel Oak were really nice to us," Eastham said. "It was a success all around."

Auction items included a side of beef, original art and prints, breakfast for two and one desert per month for a year at the Livestock Grill (after it reopens), chairs from the old auction arena and name plates for chairs in the new one.

Insurance will pay \$1.2 million to replace the ruined portions of the exchange, said Eastham, a Rappahannock County cattleman.

But that will fall short of

the final bill, which has yet to be determined, he said.

"It's going to be a lot more than I anticipated," said Eastham, explaining the final tab also "depends on what we have to do with the permitting and the zoning and the handicap access."

The steel structure that will house pens should arrive the second week of April, he said.

Lacking a sales arena and office, the exchange has held auctions in Culpeper since the fire.

"I'd love to do auctions" at the Fauquier Livestock Exchange site "this summer," Eastham said.

As for when the popular livestock grill might reopen, he said: "I have no idea."

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