

County Plowing Champ

E-Town 4-H'er, 18, Proves All-Around Farm Skills

ELIZABETHTOWN — Those folks who didn't know a certain smiling, blond youth who arrived at this year's Lancaster County Plowing Contest held in connection with the Mt Joy Farm Show, probably dismissed him a youngster out for fun, and not the champion.

That would have just proven they didn't know 18-year-old Christ S Miller, Elizabethtown. For this outstanding young county farmer has compiled a record during the past five years which indicates he derives his "fun" in competition mostly from winning top honors.

Christ compiled 549 of a possible 600 points, including a perfect safety score, to win the 1958 county plowing title. His nearest rival, Maurice Nissley, Manheim RD 1, was edged by four points while the champ of the previous two years, Martin Witman, Marietta RD 1, finished fourth with 532.

Miller has been a regular tractor operator on his father's 120 acre farm, about three miles southeast of E-Town, since he was "about eight or nine years old." His plowing career started when he was 13, at about the same time he started collecting trophies in the 4-H contests.

That was 1953, and his first year in club work, when he exhibited the champion steer of his class in the Harrisburg Farm Show, and won the Highest Daily Gam trophy in the Red Rose Baby Beef Club.

This was the first indication that here is a young farmer who studies not just livestock breeds and crop varieties, but the proper way to go about every job on the farm, in order to obtain maximum efficiency and the very best results.

In 1954 he had the grand Champion of the E-town community fair, and placed high in the class with his steer at Timonium.

In 1955, he again won class championship honors at Harrisburg, and exhibited the E-town Grand Champion.

In 1956 he again won the Red Rose Highest Daily Gam Trophy, had the E-town Champion Hereford steer, and won the Showmanship competition there.

This year he again won the E-town showmanship, collected the County Plowing Crown and is aiming toward the Farm Show with his Hereford steer, which was among the 29 county heaves selected for the Harrisburg contests.

The only time you'll catch this perennial collector of winnings volunteering information is when he proudly informs you that his 17-year-old sister, Jean, exhibited the Grand Champion steer at E-Town, and placed second in Slowmanship (indicating she has been picking up some expert pointers from somewhere).

Christ will represent Lancaster County in the state plowing matches, before next year's National plowing meet, in an attempt to represent Pennsylvania in the "big time."

He doesn't know yet if he'll be using the old stand-by John Deere "A" tractor and two-bottom 16-inch trailer plow, but since this is the equipment he knows — figures he just might.

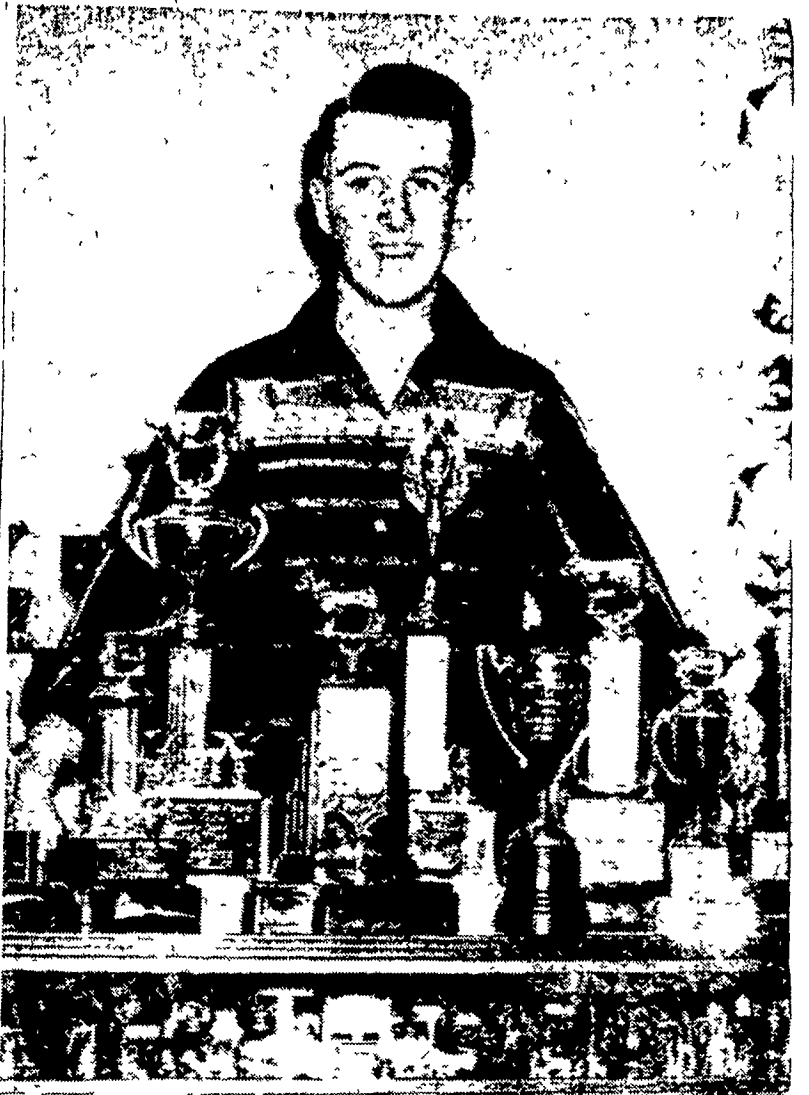
He assures you quickly that after spending several years in developing talents vital to successful farming he has no intentions of heading for the bright lights.

"I intend to stay on the farm as long as I can," he declares. "As for my plowing, well I just try to do a neat job, so I won't have to work the ground so often."

He plows from 45 to 50 acres annually, with tilling practices calling for furrows from six to eight inches deep.

The day he was interviewed for this story, Christ was harrowing a field near the farmstead. "I'm having to go over this again," he admitted with a grin, "because this is the field I worked to polish the plow for the contest. It was a little too wet, and I didn't do a very good job. I'm sure glad this wasn't in the judging."

BY Lynml5-c



CHRIST DISPLAYS trophies won during five years of 4-H membership, along with two taken by his sister. Having placed his steer among the top group for entry in the State Farm Show, he is aiming for the more honors at Harrisburg in January. LF PHOTO

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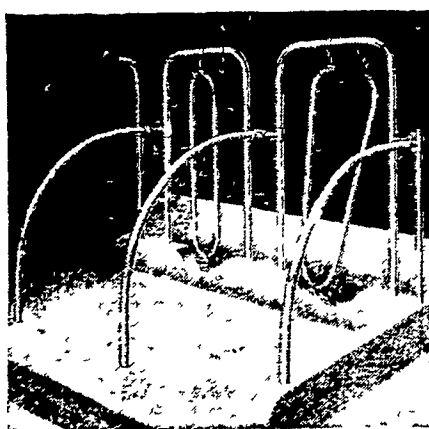
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