

Lancaster Farming

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Lancaster Farming Photo

A five-year-old cow shown by John Welk, left, walked off with grand champion honors at Thursday's Lancaster District Holstein Show

held in the Guernsey Sales Barn. Russell Kline, right, took the reserve ribbon with his four-year-old.

4-H Dairy, District Holstein Shows Held

This was the busiest week of the year for 4-H'ers enrolled in the three dairy clubs in the county. It was round-up time at the Guernsey Barn, east of Lancaster, and youngsters - and cows - worked hard to be ready for their turn in the ring.

Round-up got underway Tuesday with the colored breeds competing. The endless parade of animals caught the eye of many tourists who sauntered by to see what was happening.

It was a family affair in the Brown Swiss show, with Robert Witmer, Willow Street, capturing the senior and grand champion title with his two-year-old. His sister Linda took reserve champion honors with her senior yearling, which was also junior champion. Linda was also reserve senior

Brown Swiss showman, and a younger sister, Judy, was junior champion showman.

A junior yearling owned by Jacqueline Kreider, Kinzer, was reserve junior champion while reserve senior champion was a two-year-old owned by Lois Wanner, Narvon.

Champion senior showman for the breed was Warren A. Schmuck, Peach Bottom, and reserve junior champion was Jacqueline Kreider.

The Balmer family of Lititz practically made a clean sweep of showmanship awards in the Guernsey breed, with Cheryl taking the champion senior showman prize, Carol champion junior showman and Connie reserve junior showman.

Reserve champion senior showman went to Linda Kauffman, Elizabethtown, who normally shows Holsteins but who was showing her first Guernsey, an animal she won last summer.

Senior and grand Guernsey was owned by Mark Z. Witmer, Willow Street, and shown by his sister Susan. Junior champion and reserve breed champion belonged to Diane Crider, Nottingham. Her brother, Ricky Lee, showed reserve junior breed champion. Cheryl Balmer owned the reserve senior breed champion.

There is at least one young man who will remember his

first year at round-up as something special. Matthew Arrowsmith, Peach Bottom, took over Jersey breed competition by winning junior breed champion and reserve grand champion with his senior calf. He also was champion junior Jersey showman, and received special recognition by winning first place in competition for first year showmen only.

Barbara Aaron, Quarryville, showed the senior and grand champion Jersey, and Ellen Schmuck,

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Berks Pageant Contestants

Eight girls will be vying for the title of Berks County Dairy Princess on Saturday, August 3, at 8:00 p.m. at the Kutztown Fairgrounds.

The contest will be held in conjunction with the Kutztown Jaycees Old Fashioned Picnic.

Contestants who will be participating in the pageant are:

Christine Adam is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Adam, Hamburg, Pa. She is seventeen years of age. Christine plans to enter

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Steve Donough

Active 4-Her and Livestock Judge

By Melissa Piper

Steve Donough, 17, has been active in 4-H for the past seven years completing steer and market lamb projects.

Steve is being kept busy these days working for his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Donough, on their 127 acre farm in RD4, Manheim.

Livestock judging has

been one of Steve's most outstanding accomplishments. Recently at the York County 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, Steve placed third in sheep judging and helped the Lancaster County team capture second place.

At State FFA Days held in June, he was third high in-

dividual and will be competing at the National FFA Contest in Kansas City in the Fall.

Last year at 4-H State Days, Steve was a high individual judge on the Lancaster County Junior Team and the County team placed first.

Steve, who will be a junior at Manheim Central School is also an FFA member and

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Dairy Herd Health Project Progress Report . . .

Working For Healthier Cows

Dairy herd health is a complex problem. Good management, of course, is the most important ingredient in any recipe for herd health, and Pennsylvania dairymen excel in management expertise.

"This state has some of the healthiest animals in the country," Dr. Samuel B. Guss told Lancaster Farming at Penn State. "Our problems aren't much worse than those in other states. But Pennsylvania is such an intensively farmed state, that we seem to get our problems before anybody else sees them. Of course, we get a chance to lick them sooner, too."

Guss, an extension veterinarian at Penn State, is an integral part of a unique herd health research project which has been underway at the University for the past three years. Project 1870, as it's known is unique both in its approach and its financing.

The project was started about three years ago with \$17,000 in College of Agriculture funds. That money has been used up, and current operating funds are being donated largely by agribusiness firms and individual dairymen. Plans are to keep donors informed on the progress of the project as it moves along.

First step in the research work was to find 15 model herds and study them intensively for three years. The object here was to find out what the owners of these herds were doing right, then compare the findings in the model herds with those in problem herds. Much of the model herd work has

been done, and project members are now working with five problem herds. The herds are located on each of the state's three major soil types - limestone, gray shale and red shale

Project 1870's approach is an unusual dairy study because it involves a broad cross-section of academic disciplines. Participating departments at Penn State include veterinary science, animal science, poultry science, dairy science, agronomy, horticulture and agricultural Economics. The U.S. Regional Research Laboratory at the University is also participating. A committee of these researchers meet monthly to coordinate the project work and to talk about progress and problems.

Another unusual aspect of the project is the collection of data from commercial dairy herds, an approach which generally poses serious obstacles, chief of which is the loss of complete control over the research subjects.

Researchers must often work in a kind of vacuum, where they set up and maintain carefully controlled environments so the effect of one variable can be observed with a reasonable degree of accuracy.

Laboratory findings under these controlled conditions have helped boost milk production tremendously over the past decade and they've helped to keep cows healthier longer. And yet, there are more and more instances occurring where dairy farmers are experiencing serious herd health problems even though they're sticking very closely to the advice they

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Lancaster Farming Photo

Penn State extension veterinarian Dr. Samuel Guss, left, draws a blood sample from an anemic cow in the John Behrer herd at Spruce Creek. Helping Guss is Mike Behrer, John's son and a Penn State student. The work is part of Project 1870, a dairy herd health improvement study financed largely by donations from the dairy industry.