

4-H'ers Ready Steers



Tom Good, RD2, Lititz thinks that keeping his Angus steer clean by brushing and combing is important for any show but especially for Farm Show competition.

(Continued from Page 1) months, the animals were left to adjust to their surroundings and new owners but as summer approached preparations and pampering for the Lancaster County fairs took priority.

Ken Longenecker, a Lititz area youth explained what processes he had gone through in working with his Angus steer.

"After my steer had been on the farm for the first few months, I started getting him ready for the Manheim Fair, which meant clipping, washing, combing, and exercise."

Ken also showed his steer at the Livestock show in Timonium, Maryland and then traveled to the 4-H District show held at the Lancaster Stockyards where his animal was selected to go to the Farm Show.

When asked what final preparations he was involved in, Ken answered by saying that keeping his steer in shape was important now.

"He walks pretty good, but I want him to be very good in the ring so I'm working on that."

Ken certainly mean what he said for his steer was ready for his daily exercise when this reporter left the Longenecker farm.

Ken has had some previous experience in farm show competitions as this is his third year in traveling to Harrisburg with a steer. In fact, a few years ago, four of the Longenecker brothers exhibited steers during the same show.

This will be the second year, young Tom Good of RD2, Lititz, will have showing his steer in Farm Show competition. Although Tom is only 12, he has been in 4-H for three years and has taken a steer project every year.

Tom admitted that having a steer takes a lot of time and work.

"Sometimes, I didn't work on my animal every day but I had to catch up," he explained.



Raising a steer to show involves a lot of hard work that includes feeding, training and a lot of cleaning. Janell

Conrad, Bird-in-Hand works at cleaning the tail of her crossbred animal.

"The important thing is to get your steer ready for the show by cleaning the coat and clipping and blocking, so he looks his best."

Beginners luck could be an asset to Janell Conrad, Bird-in-Hand, although she has been working hard on her crossbred steer as an added protection.

This has been Janell's first year in showing beef although she has been in 4-H for three years.

"I didn't expect to do so good," she remarked.

"I wasn't thinking about going to the farm show until my steer was selected at the District 4-H Show."

Janell admitted that working with her steer has taken a lot of her free time but that it has been worth the responsibility.

"As I see it, although the work is hard, what you put into getting the animal ready will pay off."

In other words, what you put into the job you'll get back in return."

Carl Longenecker, a leader for the Red Rose Baby Beef Club, summed up the youngster's feelings in this manner, "these youngsters work hard all throughout the year, even if they don't place at the farm show it is a compliment and an honor to get chosen for the contest."

This year the show will be organized into weight classes instead of breed competition. While the steers must weigh 900 pounds, there is no top limit.

Most of the county steers

will be taken to Harrisburg on Saturday, weighed on Sunday and be pampered throughout the week until show time that begins on Thursday morning in the

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