

The Kennard Henley Jr. Family

Shows Get Top Priority

Ayrshire showmanship is serious business to the Henley family of Cochranville, Chester County. Kennard Henley III, in fact, was not in the best of moods when we first saw him Monday morning in the Farm Show cow barn just after the end of Ayrshire judging. His thirteen-year-old face wore that clenched-jawed, snapping-eyed look that is the unmistakable hallmark of thwarted ambition.

"He doesn't like to lose," we were told by young Kennard's father, Kennard Henley, Jr. "He really wanted the grand championship." Henley cows did win both grand and reserve grand junior ribbons, but the overall grand and reserve prizes went to William Ocker, a Cumberland County dairyman from Shippenburg.

We asked Henley how he feels in the showing. "It's just the same as playing a football game," he said. "I always go out with a positive attitude. I always want to come back with a grand championship."

Young Henley's competitive spirit is a quality he comes by naturally. Kennard Jr. has been an Ayrshire breeder and showman since 1949, when he had an Ayrshire FFA project. From that beginning, he built a topflight Ayrshire herd that performed well both in the showing and the weighing jar. It was a good operation, with 200 animals and 150 acres of good Chester County cropland. But the lure of the showing eventually won out over the assurance of a regular milk check.

In 1970, Henley Jr. sold his

farm and most of his animals. He bought 21 acres of pastureland and a few show animals, and now has a herd that totals 45 animals, 18 of them milking.

"Our operation is kind of unique," Henley said at the farm show. "I enjoy showing. We all enjoy showing. And you can't spend a lot of time on the road and still do a good job with a dairy farm."

"We sell some milk. We sell all the manure from our cows to a fertilizer company. I drive school bus and we make money showing. It's been working out pretty well."

Henley takes his prize Ayrshires to major shows throughout the East. "Anywhere East of the Mississippi," he said. "We've been to Ohio, New York, Florida. At the end of this month, I'm going to West Palm Beach, Florida, for a show, then I'll stay there for a show in Tampa three weeks later."

How does he fare at all these shows? "Last year, 1974, we were in 19 shows. Out of a possible 29 grand championships, we took 25. I'm pretty well pleased with that. This year we'll probably be in 21 shows."

Even though they might be some of the most well-traveled Ayrshires in the history of cowdom, the Henley DHIR herd average last year stood at 12,000



Kennard Henley, III, left, his father Kennard, Jr., and brother William are all serious Ayrshire showmen. The Chester County family from

Cochranville took the reserve grand championship ribbon in Ayrshire competition at this year's Farm Show.

York Co.

4-H Activities

Monday, January 13
 River Hill 4-H Horse Planning Mtg. 7:30 p.m.
 Elmer Sueck's RD1 - Airville
 Glen Rock-Loganville 4-H Tractor Club 7:30 P.M. C Harry Miller's RD2 Glen Rock
 Jefferson 4-H Planning Mtg. 7:30 P.M. Dale Doll's RD1 Glen Rock, Pa.
 Wednesday, January 15
 Stoverstown 4-H Handyman

Club 7:00 P.M. Jeff Hersh's RD1 Spring Grove
 York County 4-H Design With Lane Training 9:30 A.M. 4-H Center
 Thursday, January 16
 Shrewsbury 4-H Vet Science Club 8:00 P.M.
 Shrewsbury Boro. Bldg.
 Saddle-Up 4-H Horse and Pony Club 7:00 P.M. Shrewsbury Boro Bldg.

pounds of milk and 480 pounds of fat. As his father recited the production figures, Kennard III was quick to point out, "We could boost that by 2000 or 3000 pounds a year if the cows weren't on the road so much."

His work with Ayrshires and his enthusiastic support of the breed have earned Kennard Jr. the respect of

his fellow breeders, and he is currently serving his second term as president of the Pennsylvania Ayrshire Breeders Association. Sharon, his 16-year-old daughter, is president of the state's Junior Ayrshire Club. The other Henley, nine-year-old Bill, is carrying on a Henley tradition by already showing Ayrshires. And he likes to win, too.

Steer

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 brother Ed captured the reserve lightweight prize in the show.

The reserve champion middle weight prize went to Jeffrey Heisey from Lebanon RD1. Kristi Kohr of York County took the reserve ribbon in the light heavyweight competition.



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