

Twin Valley youths win at Kutztown Fair

The annual Berks County FFA Dairy and Livestock Judging Contests and tractor Driving contest was held recently at the Kutztown Fair. Dairy judging contestants placed four classes of animals - a class of milking shorthorns, a class of ayrshires, a class of holstein aged cows, and a class of holstein senior calves. Michie Gladney R3, Kutztown, Kutztown FFA Chapter, received first place in this contest. Larry Stoltzfus, R2, Elverson, Twin Valley FFA was second; Ken

Sanner, R3, Kutztown FFA was third; Mike Miller, R1 Temple, Oley FFA was fourth; Norman Manbeck, R1, Womelsdorf, Conrad Weiser FFA was fifth; Craig Grumbine, R1 Richland, Tulpehocken FFA was sixth; Jeff Miller, R3, Kutztown, Kutztown FFA was seventh; George Carles, R2, Bernville, Tulpehocken FFA was eighth; Jeff Bowers, R4 Reading, Oley FFA was ninth; and Mike Aikens, Honey Brook, Twin Valley FFA was tenth.

In the Livestock judging

contest, each participant judged five classes - one of breeding sheep, one of market swine, one of breeding swine, one of Hereford steers, and one of heavy weight market steers. Ray Zimmerman, R5, Sinking Springs, Conrad Weiser FFA won this contest; Steve Davis, R2, Kutztown, Kutztown FFA was second; Art Noas, R3, Wernersville, Conrad Weiser FFA was third; Gail Fultz, R1 Birdsboro, Twin Valley FFA finished fourth; Richard Dietrich, R2 Kutztown, Kutztown FFA was fifth; Earl Mogel, R1 Bernville, Hamburg FFA finished sixth; Cathleen Muth, R1 Alburts, Kutztown FFA was seventh; Robert Deeds, R1, Birdsboro, Twin Valley FFA placed eighth; Jan Oatman, R1, Honey Brook, Twin Valley FFA ninth; and Darrel Stoltzfus, R2 Elverson, Twin Valley FFA tenth.

The Tractor Driving Contest was won by Jeff Miller, past Berks County FFA President, from the Kutztown FFA Chapter. David Staaby, Conrad Weiser FFA Chapter, placed second; Jim Adams, Hamburg FFA, finished third; Harvey Bidler, Twin Valley FFA, was fourth; George Carles, Tulpehocken FFA, received fifth; Jim Faust, Governor Mifflin FFA was sixth; and Robert Yanos, Oley FFA was seventh.

The vocational exhibit class was won by the Kutztown exhibit entitled, Bossie Goes Metric. Northern Lebanon FFA received second with their exhibit on saving energy. Twin Valley's safety exhibit was third, and Oley Valley's tractor safety exhibit was fourth.

Hidden damage to tomatoes detected by new methods

HONOLULU, HA. - Light transmittance can be used to evaluate internal damage to tomatoes and may lead the way to better tomatoes in the market place, says John T. Worthington, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) horticulturist.

The non-destructive technique, electronic infrared light transmittance, could be used to assess the amount of internal bruising in tomatoes that occurs in each step of the marketing process. The technique could also be used to help tomato breeders evaluate new varieties for their susceptibility to damage, to sort tomatoes for maturity and to detect chilling injury in tomatoes exposed to excess refrigeration.

To test tomatoes for internal damage, a special instrument is used that transmits light through the fruit. The amount of light passing through the tomato indicates the density of the fruit. Changes in density indicate changes in the internal structure caused by bruising.

"Mechanical damage to tomatoes is an additive process from the time the tomato is picked to the time the consumer squeezes it to determine quality. Often this damage is not visible, but internal and is an important contributing factor to poor tomato quality and flavor," said Mr. Worthington.

Damage to tomatoes can occur at any stage in the marketing process: during picking and packing; in loading and transit; and, in

Cattle Feeding

With more favorable market conditions in the cattle feeding enterprise, no doubt many more feeders will be moving into the area this fall. We stress the merits of buying fresh cattle, rather than those that have been hauled in and out of several market places, in order to get more profitable gains. Also, we promote the practice of segregating fresh cattle from acclimated cattle for at least three weeks, because of the danger of infectious diseases: they should not be able to eat or drink from the same containers or to come into contact with each others. Segregation and good sanitation are still very important in the livestock business.

repacking for retail customers. Once these sites of damage can be determined using the light-transmittance technique, however, market specialists of the USDA's Agricultural Research Service will be able to evaluate tomato handling practices and determine the changes needed to improve these practices. This should lead to improved fresh market tomatoes.

Mr. Worthington reported his findings before the 72nd annual meeting of the American Society of Horticultural Science here today.

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