

Showing Ayrshires is their bag



The Henley children are all smiles over their success in the show ring. Their Ayrshires won top prizes at the Farm Show again this year. The three showmen are, from left, Sharon Lynn, Kennard III, and William.

By DIETER KRIEG
HARRISBURG — The Henleys of Cochranville were victorious again in exhibiting their Ayrshires at the Farm Show this week. Winning at major shows and county fairs has become a tradition with the Henleys, who own and operate Tower View Farm in Chester County.

Kennard Henley III was the family's top ribbon catcher this year, as he won the senior and grand championship banners, and also premier exhibitor honors. Asked how he liked showing, the 14-year-old student from Octoraro High School replied: "We went to 34 fairs last year and had 25 grands — most of them at major shows, even national — with a record like that, I really like showing."

His sister, Sharon, 17, is also a successful showman and fitter. At this year's Bicentennial Farm Show, she captured five first places. Rounding out the trio of young Ayrshire enthusiasts is 10-year-old William, who reportedly was at the lead end of a halter at age two. He has been making regular trips to the Farm Show since 1973.

The story of Tower View Ayrshires is somewhat unusual because it runs contrary to two very common trends. For one thing, the farm decreased in acreage from 200 to 21 today. The Henleys were milking 80 head five years ago, but only 20 today. Furthermore, up until 20 years ago the family had a mixed herd of Ayrshires and Holsteins, the latter of which were shoved out about 20 years ago.

Speaking on behalf of his father's management practices, young Kennard claimed the Holsteins "weren't milking too good and wouldn't breed back as well." His reasons for preferring Ayrshires include milking ability, good disposition, less reproductive problems, and success in the show ring. He said the fun of showing is one big reason why the family decided to do things on a smaller scale. They can now devote more time to the show circuit, he explained.

Sharon sums up her show ring fever in these words: "You get to see many different places, see a lot of country and meet lots of people." Her head nodded in agreement as her brother

chimed in with "just to work with cows is a pleasure, you work with them more at shows than you do at home." The family had 14 head at the Show and won 17 out of 20 classes.

All three of the Henley children belong to the Manor 4-H club, where Kennard serves as president and William is news reporter. Sharon is a recent recipient of the Keystone Farmer Degree, was voted the outstanding FFA Ayrshire youth in the state (the first girl to ever win it) and is president and chapter sweetheart of her FFA chapter. In addition, she presides over Pennsylvania's Ayrshire Youth Association.

Following are results of the Open and Youth Ayrshire Show.

Heifer Calf

1. Henley, Kennard E 3rd, Cochranville; 2. Ocker, John E. 3rd, Shippensburg; 3. Maulfair, Diane M., Jonestown; 4. Kline, William & Wilda, Mars.

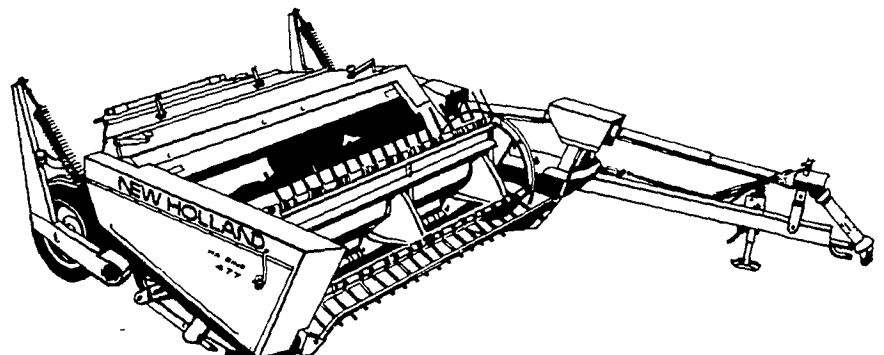
Youth Class, Heifer Calf

1. Henley, Kennard E. 3rd, Cochranville; 2. Maulfair, Diane M., Jonestown; 3.

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