

Five cousins will show steers

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Fritz C. is the son of Fred Frey, Quarryville. Their club leaders are Jason Weaver, Mechanic Grove, and Bud Dean, Strasburg.

All five of the animals being taken to Harrisburg are from the Frey's Twin Oak Farm south of Quarryville. Bonnie Sue's steer is, in fact, a calf from out of one of her own cows. They selected their animals last Spring from about 30 to 40 head and prepared them for the show circuit. One of the shows was the Lancaster County round-up, held late in the Fall. The famed Herman Purdy of Penn State was judge and he found none of the animals to be anything less than Farm Show quality. None of the Freys placed any lower than third, and the top six of each class were designated for the big Harrisburg event.

Most experienced among the fivesome in 4-H steer showing is 12-year old Ernie, who has been a member of the club for three years. But the most successful is Bonnie Sue, who at the tender age of 11, and in her very first year as a 4-H'er, had the reserve grand champion at last year's Farm Show. She was beaten by 19-year old Jim Greider of Columbia.

Readers may recall that Bonnie Sue's steer projects have been generating more than the usual amount of news - not only because of her success in Harrisburg a year ago, but because of difficulty with a zoning ordinance in their small community of Refton. Although the Freys have adequate and proper facilities and space to keep 4-H project steers, and a variety of animals may be kept, steers are not included. A ruling was passed last Fall which orders the Freys to refrain from keeping steers at their Refton home. It becomes effective right after the Farm Show is over.

In spite of the implications of the ruling, and the family's disappointment with it, Bonnie Sue has not taken on a defeatist

attitude, and she's looking forward to competing in Harrisburg this coming week.

"It's fun," she commented, "I sort of get a little nervous going out in the show ring, wondering how I'm going to place, and it's hard, especially getting the animal fit and dressing him."

The young lady gave a few details as to what is involved in getting her baby beef animal ready for the show. Saddle soap is put on the steer's legs to make the hair stand up; the entire animal is washed several times and blow-dried; milk oil is rubbed over the steer's body to make its hide shine; hooves are cleaned and trimmed and painted; body hair is pulled up straight and blocked; and a daily schedule of training is involved.

Like Bonnie Sue, Ernie will be going to the Farm Show for a second year in a row. He admits being a bit nervous, but he's even quicker to acknowledge that he's looking forward to the big event. Being the most experienced of the five cousins, he told Lancaster Farming that how the steer is shown is just as important as the appearance of the steer itself. "Always look at the judge," he said, "and when the steer stands, set up his legs properly and remember to keep an eye on the judge at all times. Brush the hair back up after the judge has patted it."

Another important aspect of showing is paying attention at meetings, the Frey children's grandmother, Mrs. Anna Frey, suggested. "Experience counts heavily," she added.

Brenda, who at 16 is the oldest of the fivesome, joined the 4-H club in her area just this past year because she found Bonnie Sue's work and accomplishments to be interesting. Like her sister and cousins, she's looking forward to going to Harrisburg.

Jamie, a first-year 4-H'er, says she's a bit

nervous too, but with the family so strongly represented, she's likely to get over that. Fritz C. is also a beginner, and almost as interested in steers as he is in football. Last Fall, he said, he had to get up early in the morning to lead his steer, because evenings and afternoons were taken up by football. He washes his steer about once a week, brushes him nightly and walks it for about 15 to 20 minutes per day.

A little family rivalry might be expected here, but none is evident. Grandma Frey

proudly commented that all five of the contestants help each other out with their projects and they're really not jealous of each other.

"As long as one of the Freys wins it'll be okay," interjected Brenda. They're representing Lancaster County as well. The Red Rose Club has 29 steers at the Farm Show.

Grandma Frey has 16 grandchildren. Five are showing in Harrisburg this year. Seven will be eligible next year. And...

Queens grace Farm Show

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania's Commodity Queens will be honored at Pre-Farm Show activities during this weekend, according to Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Raymond J. Kerstetter.

Kerstetter said that the queens would be recognized at the Pre-Farm Show Dinner and at the Governor's Preview and Press Tour.

The annual Pre-Farm Show Dinner, which will be held today at the Host Inn in Harrisburg, is held to honor visiting secretaries and commissioners of agriculture from other states and the Pennsylvania Commodity Queens. This year, Lieutenant Governor Ernest P. Kline will address the dinner. A record number of visiting agriculture secretaries is expected.

The Commodity Queens will also be on hand for the Governor's Preview and Press Tour of the 61st annual Farm Show, Sunday,

January 9. During the festivities on Sunday, they will present Governor Shapp with gifts from the various agricultural industries and associations they represent.

Pennsylvania's Commodity Queens travel throughout the commonwealth during their reigns promoting the agricultural industries which sponsor the queen contests.

This year's Commodity Queens and their titles are: Pennsylvania Apple Queen, Jane Alecxih, Lancaster; Pennsylvania Cherry Queen, Joyce E. Fetters, Gardners; Pennsylvania Environmental Queen, Debra Ann May, St. Thomas; Pennsylvania FFA Princess, Marcia Hess, Quarryville; Pennsylvania Flower Queen, Mary Moore, Kittanning; Pennsylvania Flying Farmer Queen, Betty J. Rothenberger, Lansdale; Pennsylvania Flying Farmerette, Robin Eileen

Weaver, Home; Pennsylvania State Grape Queen, Sherry Nickell, North East; Pennsylvania Honey Queen, Maryann T. Ribick, Phoenixville; Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Queen, Debra Black, Avella; Pennsylvania Maple Queen, Jane McKenry, Windber; Pennsylvania Poultry Queen, Elizabeth Frances Sperry, Atlantic; Pennsylvania Suffolk Queen, Susan Hastings, Villanova; Queen Evergreen XIII, Susan Bloom, Indiana; and Ms. College of Agriculture, Patricia Ann Wolff, New Alexandria.

The 1976-77 Pennsylvania Dairy Princess, Peggy Ardis Staub, will not be present. Wanda Sue Herman, the Alternate Dairy Princess, will be on hand to take part in the festivities.

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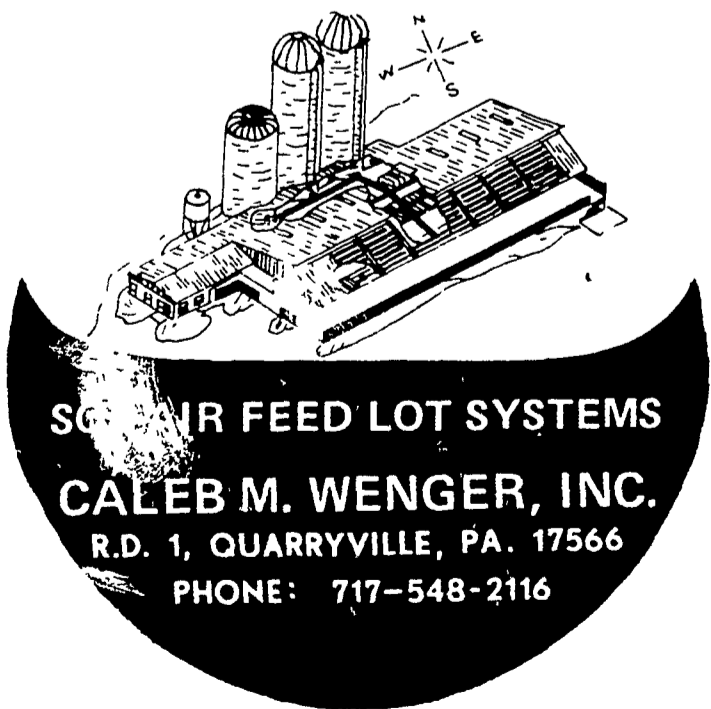
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