

# Part-time dairyman leads way in show ring

By DIETER KRIEG

JONESTOWN, Pa. - Look for a tall cow with sharp shoulders, a wide rump, a well-attached udder with small, plumb and squarely placed teats, good feet, strong and properly set legs and large body capacity - and you've got yourself a cow which might be in the winner's circle at the County Fair.

The above traits are some of the ones Dale Maulfair looks for. He has shown cows for 11 years and this past January had the grand champion Ayrshire at the Farm Show. That was a first for him, although winning blue ribbons is almost getting to be routine for the young Lebanon County dairyman. Modest about his accomplishments, Maulfair



One of the area's most accomplished exhibitors of Ayrshires is Lebanon County's Dale Maulfair.

## Veg. garden workshop set

YORK, Pa. - The York County Agricultural Extension Service is sponsoring a vegetable garden workshop presented by Timothy G. Markovits, ass't county agricultural agent. Topics to be discussed include insect and disease identification and control, mulches and composting. The locations are: York Mall Community Room - Monday, June 6 from 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Shrewsbury Boro Building - Monday, June 13 at 7:30 p.m.; Hanover (Gideon) Grange - Tuesday, June 14 at 7:30 p.m.

began showing in 4-H and FFA. He says it took five or six years to make the grade for the bigger shows where he is now a perennial contender for the top awards. "I didn't let myself get discouraged during those early years," he told Lancaster Farming.

Although Maulfair is involved in the dairy business on only a part-time basis, he is dedicated to his Ayrshires. A teacher's aid for Norlebo's FFA Chapter, he helps his father, Paul, on the family's 130-acre farm near Jonestown. He works

with the 75-head herd morning and evening and during the Summer months. He owns 13 of the animals himself, while his wife, Pat, lays claim to two more. Together, they show at local, state, district, and even national shows. It takes them as much as four months to prepare an animal, beginning with hoof trimming. Once they're in the show string, however, it's just a matter of keeping after them. To the Maulfairs it's a lot of fun.

A 1977 recipient of the American Farmer Degree,

Maulfair hopes to go into full-time farming someday. He considers the future of dairying to be "pretty good" and appreciates the lifestyle offered by farming.

One of the benefits of showing, according to Maulfair, is that it gives the dairyman an opportunity to compare his cattle with those of someone else. Although milk production drops slightly for those cows which are put on the show circuit, it still pays to show, says the Lebanon County man. He has hopes of increasing his show string.

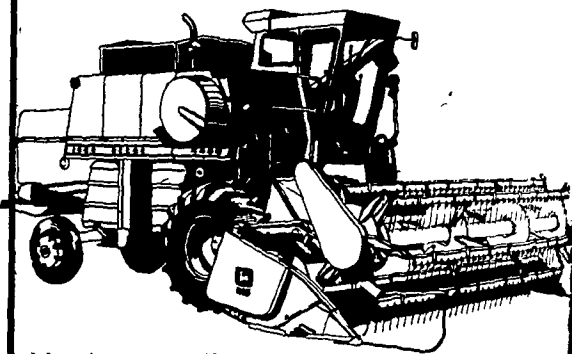
Good over-all management is important in acquiring a competitive show herd, Maulfair believes. Feeding programs are closely regulated, and that's one reason the part-time dairyman prefers working with a herd of 40 or less milking animals. Cows also have to be milked properly and kept clean. The Maulfairs milk in a stanchion barn using bucket milkers.

Breeding is not to be forgotten. Maulfair uses "Mar-ral High Kick" in his herd, calling him the top bull of the Ayrshire breed.

A final consideration is herd health. Maulfair vaccinates for pneumonia and sometimes also mastitis, realizing chances for contact diseases are increased significantly due to his being moved around country so much. Dipping is part of the routine at milking time.

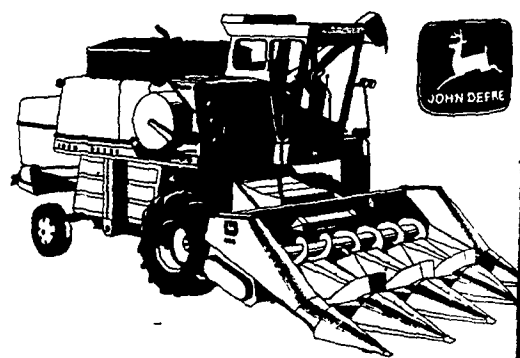
Maulfair's 1976 string consisted of home-bred animals. In 1977 he hopes to increase that number. His emphasis is on quality, not necessarily quantity, and he's likely to keep the tide of blue ribbons coming his way.

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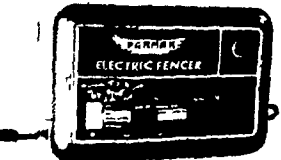
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