

Champion 4-H steer exhibitor will try for two

By DIETER KRIEG

MILTON GROVE — The owner of last year's grand champion beef animal at the Pennsylvania Farm Show says that walking and training the steer are two of the most important points to remember in preparing an animal for show ring competition. She offers that advice to others who may be striving for championship performances. She also practices what she preaches and is looking forward to defending her championship next week.



Janice Kaylor

Janice Kaylor, the 16-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Shelly Kaylor of Elizabethtown R3, will attend this year's Pennsylvania Farm Show with a Chianina-Angus steer and two Charolais heifers. An accomplished showman with ambitions of becoming a professional on the beef cattle circuit, Miss Kaylor takes her show preparation duties seriously.

It's a lot of work. But it's also a lot of fun, says the blonde and bespectacled 4-H'er.

Janice purchased this year's steer entry nearly a year ago; soon after she sold her 1977 champion for \$7744 at last year's Farm Show sale. Weighing 1145 pounds this past Tuesday and being held back on feed somewhat to help give him that competitive edge, Miss Kaylor's steer has undergone "training" ever since she has owned him. At first she worked with him for as long as two hours per day. Lately it's just been an hour each evening. The steer, named Archie, has responded well to his walking and standing lessons. He's trim, firm, and covered with a thick coat of hair. In short, he's ready for the Farm Show.

Janice is ready too. She looks forward to meeting other competitors each year and enjoys working with her animals.

A member of the Lower Dauphin Baby Beef Club, Miss Kaylor will be going to the Farm Show as an exhibitor for the fifth year. She remembers her first

smooth hair coat, for example.

At home on a Lancaster County grain farm near Elizabethtown, Miss Kaylor became interested in cattle shows as a result of her cousin's involvement with 4-H activities. She has found her work with beef cattle to be enjoyable and remembers her first entry to the Farm Show as a "fantasy" come true.

A junior at Elizabethtown Area High School, Miss Kaylor has a show circuit and beef breeding farm career in mind for the future. To further her goals, she's considering taking an 8-week short course in animal husbandry. Aside from her experiences in the

show rings of Pennsylvania (where she has come up with several champion and reserve champion animals) the young lady is picking up a few pointers through her FFA chapter, of which she is treasurer. She joined the Vo-ag program at the start of her sophomore year at Elizabethtown.

Showing and fitting beef animals has meant a lot to the defending grand champion owner, including the lessons and satisfactions derived from tackling a project, accepting responsibility, depending on one's own abilities, and coming up a winner. Her achievements have helped give her the opportunity to serve as a junior leader of

her 4-H club. She and other members are coached and advised by Harvey Fisher, 4-H leader, and Harold Stewart, Dauphin County agricultural agent.

Janice says she used to really get upset about having to sell her pet steers, but not anymore. She paid \$400 for last year's grand champion, and then saw him sell for

over \$7700 at the sale. She has \$400 invested in this year's entry and is hoping for a similar kind of return.

Archie was reserve grand champion in Dauphin County last Fall. The pair Charolais heifers have record of success too. One fact, stood first overall in breed at the Keystone position.

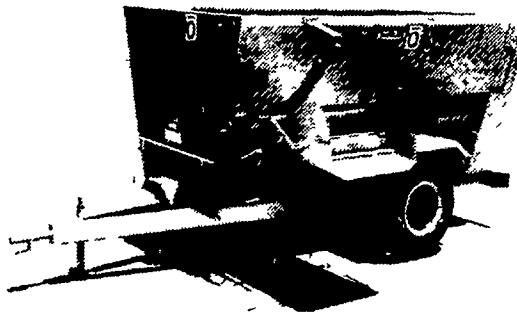
experience in Harrisburg as having been an occasion which didn't yield significant recognition. The second year went better, and the improvement continued. This year it's a question of holding on to her grand championship status.

In order to fulfill her dream of repeating as champion, Miss Kaylor has worked with her animals every evening regardless of the weather or day. Aside from walking and jogging her beef cattle, she wets them down each evening to stimulate hair growth. The thicker coats will be easier to work with and will hopefully catch the judge's eye. The walking and jogging firms the animal's muscles.

Leading and training the animals are perhaps the most difficult steps of the preparation. It takes patience to overcome the initial difficulties, the accomplished young lady affirmed. "At first they're afraid of the show stick, but with a little love and care, they get used to it."

The road to the baby beef championship begins at whatever farm the prospective champion animal is purchased. It's at that point that competitors such as Janice try to find the animal which they feel has the traits the judge will want to see. According to Janice, the traits the judge is most likely looking for include: proper conformation, a straight back, heavy bone structure, trim and fleshy body, and "something to catch his eye" — like a

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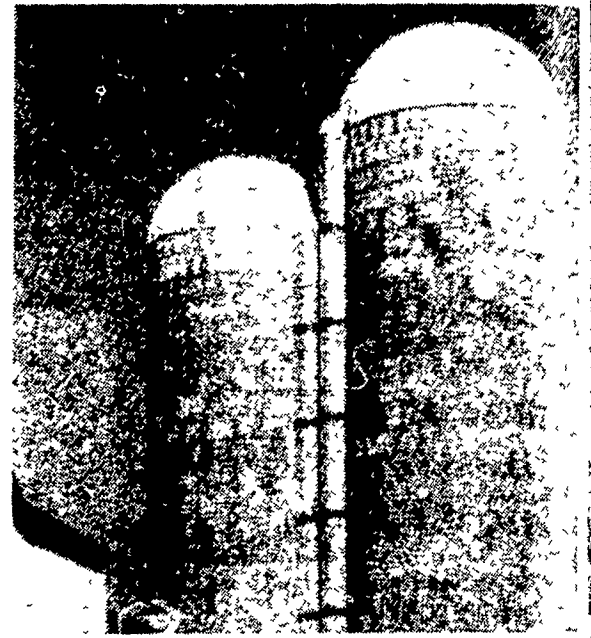
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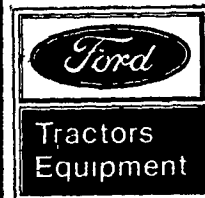
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