

Lancaster Co. champs comment

BY SHEILA MILLER
HARRISBURG — What do you feel like after winning the grand championship at the Farm Show with an animal you've worked with and pampered all year long? And the very next day, you lead that animal into a sales ring and know that you'll never see it at home again.

This is a moment that every Junior showman must face during the experience called Farm Show. For some, it's easy to part and for others it's probably the hardest thing they've ever done in their lives.

The faces of the young men and women show a mixture of bravery and sadness. At times, the front of being unconcerned breaks down and tears come streaming, involuntarily, down their faces.

For most of the Juniors, the chance of raising the animal and then selling it at the Farm Show is a continuing lesson during their years in FFA or 4-H.

For Ernie Frey, his steer, Roadrunner, was his sixth 4-H project. But, Roadrunner undoubtedly will be special in Ernie's memories because he won his first grand champion with this Angus x Chianina crossbred steer.

After the sale, when Ernie was paid a new record price for his 4-H project, he said he planned to invest his earnings into a herd of cattle. What type of cattle — Angus

cows with a Chianina bull, he said.

Another Lancaster County winner, Chris Herr said he is planning to invest the money he received for the sale of his reserve grand champion steer, Houston, in schooling. He hopes to attend Penn State and major in agribusiness or ag engineering.

When asked what he did to raise his crossbred steer to win the reserve championship, Chris said he pushed the May calf with high protein grain to get him to grow.

By the Chianina Field Days held last summer, Chris said he almost thought Houston was too big.

"I decided to pull back and just hold him, letting him coast on a little grain and pasture," Chris explained. "I also walked him twice a day."

Chris said Houston caught on quick in his halter breaking and leading lessons. And added, if anything, Houston was just a bit lazy when it came to exercising.

He said the big steer's disposition was just like a baby's. "He even acts kind of dumb when you catch him doing something wrong."

When working with an animal that size, the temperament is a vital consideration.

A champion on a smaller scale, Steve Strauss of Lancaster exhibited the

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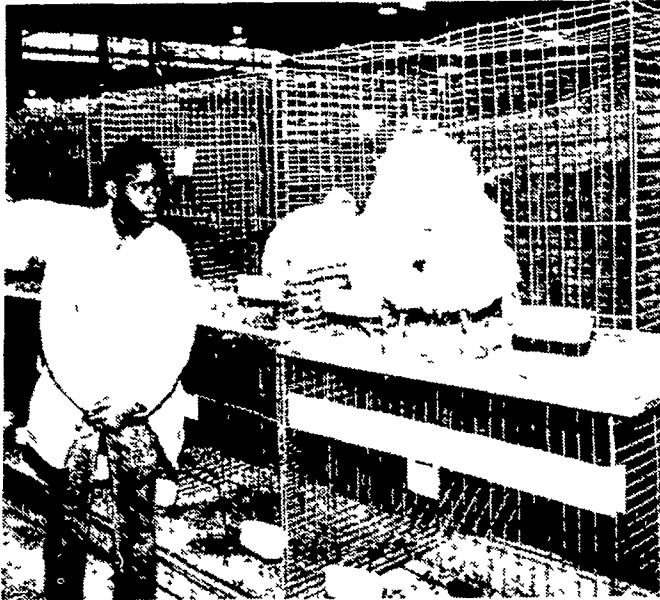
Sale

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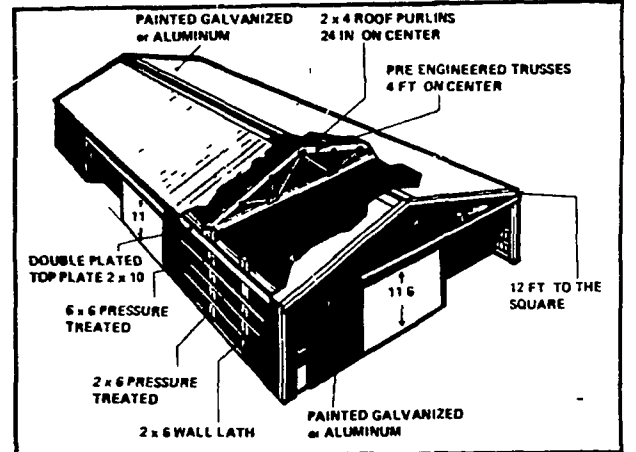


Bill Fox, of Fox's Market in Middletown, became the proud owner of the grand champion Junior Market lamb, owned and showed by Julie Kuzemchak, Centre County. Pictured with Bill, from left, are his two sons, Brian, 5 and Jeremy, 7; Julie Kuzemchak; and Chet Heim, Pa. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.



The Konhaus Farm prize winning turkey and one of the many Farm Show visitors seem to be at a stand-off in a staring down contest. Only the turkey got his feathers ruffled when it ended in a tie.

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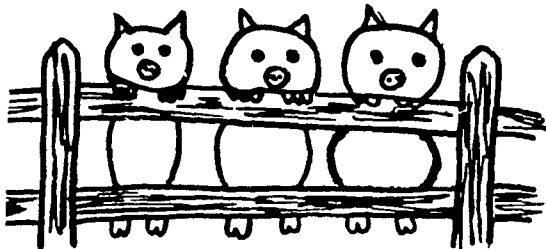
Donald Sheiss, Franklin Co., sold his grand champion Duroc Jr. Market swine to Hatfield Packing Co. for \$17.00 per pound. Pictured, left to right, are: Jerry Clemens, Hatfield Packing Co.; Donald Sheiss; Ezra Good, Hatfield Packing Co.; and J Luther Snyder, Pa. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

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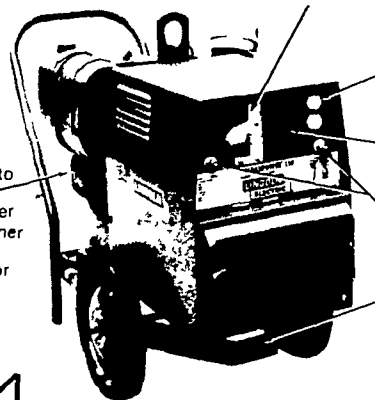
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