

*95° weather doesn't stop them*

# Students join in Holstein Assn.'s judging school



With heads held high, these proud Brown Swiss from the farm of Gary Mase in Lebanon County parade by the students of the Eastern Judging School.

**BY DEBBIE KOONTZ**  
LANCASTER — Ninety-plus degree weather did not stop the 82 determined youths who participated in the Eastern Junior Judging School, Wednesday and Thursday.

Although it got off to a rather slow start, the school was in full motion by the second day as students took on a more professional attitude and gave sound reasons for their placings, asked questions, and broke into judging groups.

The school, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Holstein Association, was open to any youth, from any eastern county in Pennsylvania, with an interest in learning dairy judging — but most of the participants are in 4-H and FFA.

Guest speaker and instructor for the two-day event was Dr. Lee Majeski, associate professor at the University of Maryland.

Originally from Wisconsin, Majeski said he was raised on a dairy farm and quite often conducts judging schools such as this. He also serves as an Extension dairyman for Maryland.

Majeski's emphasis during the 'school' was, "overall techniques in dairying, methods of evaluating, taking notes for reasons and terminology."

Because the Association wanted to present an entire review of dairying, they scheduled the school to include several breeds on various farm stops throughout Lancaster County.

"We realize kids have to broaden their education and that when they're out at judging shows they have to judge colors as well as Holsteins," Diane Bliss, administrative assistant, explained.

The first stop on the agenda was at Len-Lyn Farms of Ephrata with the Galen Crouse family hosting.

Crouse, along with his sons, milks a herd of 140 Holsteins. One son, Neil, is still in 4-H and participated in the school.

From there the school moved to the Sunny Craft Farm operated by Clarence and Earl Stauffer.

Students first judged one Brown Swiss class from the farm of Gary Mase of Lebanon and then one senior yearling class from Paul Harning's farm in Stevens.

Following this class were two more in three-year-olds and aged from Stauffer's farm.

An evening session by Dr. Majeski offered the students a chance to study and present reasons — Majeski emphasizing its importance to any professional dairy judge.

The Guernsey breed got special



Dr. Majeski gives one last look over the Brown Swiss class he and 82 students judged.

attention early Thursday morning at the farm of Jessie Balmer near Rothsville.

Next stop was the James Martin farm in Stevens to judge Ayrshires.

Majeski's advice to the students: "Don't judge each individually — compare them to the others. Compare number one to the ideal

and decide what you like about her."

"When an animal comes into the ring, try to set up a place where you can see the entire animal; her front, back as she walks away, and her sides — so that the first three to five minutes you have a rough idea of how you're going to place these animals," he said.

Wednesday night, to 'beat the heat,' the Association offered a barbecue and Stauffers opened their pool to the students.

The school is one of two held every year in Pennsylvania by the Holstein Association. The other one is conducted in the western part of the state.



These Ayrshire girls are judging the students before it becomes the reverse.



Dr. Lee Majeski, instructor for the two-day school, studies a holstein on the farm of Galen Crouse of Ephrata.