



These Cumberland County dairymen go back to school along with "Gracie", the cow, to teach students about the number one product—milk. The team of dairymen include:

spokesman, Sheldon Brymesser; Jeff Stamy at the halter and assistant Larry Souder (not pictured), all dairymen in Cumberland County.

## Cumberland dairymen go back to grade school

BY BETH HEMMINGER  
Staff Correspondent

CARLISLE - Gracie greeted the children at Monroe Elementary School with a friendly "moo" and the children "mooed" back giggling excitedly.

This was the day the students were patiently waiting for when Cumberland County dairymen brought "Gracie" the cow to their school. This dairy program has given over 18,000 youngsters in the past nine years an opportunity to see and touch a dairy cow.

Duane Duncan, Cumberland County Extension Agent and coordinator of the program has visited all nine school districts in Cumberland County along with several dairymen and the reigning dairy princesses.

Gracie, a five-year-old and this year's school cow, stands beside a dairyman, who explains about the dairy industry and "Gracie" before groups of 40 children from kindergarten to fifth grade. Two dairymen from the county show the feedstuff, medicine, point out parts of the cow after which the children have an opportunity to ask some rather interesting questions.

"How many babies has Gracie had?"

"What are her favorite foods?"

"Will she bite me?"

"Where does chocolate milk come from?"

There are just a few of the hundreds of questions the dairymen answer during their day at school.

Along with the children, the administrators, teachers and school aides become more familiar with what goes on down on the farm. Duncan states the program has developed a better understanding and appreciation for the career of farming. It also has given dairy farmers an opportunity to understand the school system and what it is teaching their children.

After the students visited with Gracie they returned indoors to learn a little more about the important nutritional value of milk from the Cumberland County Dairy Princess.

Dairy Princess Cindy Witmer, told the students why milk is so nutritious.

"Milk is a natural," she said. "It provides calcium for growing strong bones and teeth." The dairy princess told the milk story in a variety of entertaining ways with puppets, posters, charts and models.

Along with the dairy princess presentation, the Cumberland

County Extension Service provided a packet of activities and information suitable for each grade level. One of the handouts was "The Geraldine Story Book" which is a favorite of the younger students. The story tells about Geraldine, the cow, and what happens in her daily life on the farm from eating to milking and 'playing' with her little friend Pinky, the dog.

Teachers also received an information packet about dairy farming and dairy products which can be used in classroom projects. The county agent remarked that most teachers use this occasion to incorporate classroom activities with the dairy program. Students draw pictures of the cow, write letters and thank-you notes that are sent to the dairy princess, dairymen and Extension office.

Educators in Cumberland County have remarked that the dairy program is informative, appropriate and the hands-on experience is the best way to teach the students and reinforce their knowledge.

Due to the overwhelming response of the program in the past nine years, Cumberland County dairy industry plans to continue visiting the schools, promoting and teaching about the industry.

## York County tops KILE's Meats judging contest

HARRISBURG — York County 4-H topped the Fourth Annual Keystone Junior Livestock and Meats Judging Contest, Oct. 5, during the Keystone International Livestock Exposition held at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

Over 450 4-H and FFA members making up 112 teams from six states competed. Three classes of beef cattle, swine and two classes of sheep were judged. A quiz, identifying livestock equipment, feeds and types of meats was given. The top ten finalists in the contest were required to show a beef animal, sheep and swine with the winner being named the 1981 Keystone Stockman.

The prestigious 1981 Keystone Stockman award went to Kenneth Sunday, 16, son of Charles and June Sunday of R1, York. Kenneth received a trophy and a \$500 Savings Bond sponsored by the Pennsylvania Livestock Association. Second runner-up was Bill Wise of Spring Grove; third place, Bob Livingston of Dover; fourth place, Chris Shive of Seven Valleys; and fifth place individual

was won by Tammy Eisenhour of Wellsville.

The top team award went to the York County 4-H who accumulated a score of 2,211 points from a possible 2,520 points. Team members included Bill Wise, Bob Livingston, Michele Bankert of Hanover, and Chris Shive.

The Delaware 4-H team from New Castle captured the second place award with 2,069 points. Third place went to the CHESTER COUNTY 4-H with 2,006 points; fourth place, Schoharie County, New York, 4-H with 1,974 points; and fifth place, Elizabethtown FFA, with 1,973 points.

Placing six through ten in the team competition were Cloister FFA, seventh, Bever County 4-H;


eighth, York County 4-H Team B; ninth, Lehigh County, and tenth, Sussex County, Delaware 4-H.

Placing sixth through tenth in the individual competition were David Kauffman of Elizabethtown FFA; Mark Taylor representing New Castle, Delaware 4-H; Steve Majchrzak of the Sussex County, Delaware, 4-H; Mary Bogner representing Clark County, Virginia, 4-H; and tenth, Nancy Eisenhart from the York County 4-H team.

The Keystone International Livestock Exposition is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Livestock Association in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Farm Show Commission.

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