

At the annual dairy banquet

4-H'ers honor top 'cheeses' in dairy projects

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ
LANCASTER — Four-H'ers from throughout the county who sported a dairy project this past season officially ended another productive year of round-ups and competitions by honoring their own, Thursday night, at the Good 'N Plenty Restaurant, here.

It was a night of new faces and new awards as Jeff Hess, president of the Holstein Club, officiated over the ceremonies honoring more than 40 individuals.

This year the banquet was dedicated to the late Jesse Balmer, Lititz dairy farmer and 4-H dairy leader for 16 years with the Golden Guernsey Dairy Club, who died this past fall. In memorium, Peter Witmer of Willow Street, co-leader of the Guernsey Club, presented Mrs. Balmer a bouquet of a dozen red roses.

A special trophy was donated this year by Balmer's family to Mary Ann Witmer of Willow Street for Best Owner-Bred Female in the Guernsey breed.

Another such trophy, presented in memory of H. LeRoy Welk Jr. of Peach Bottom, former 4-H dairy leader, was awarded to Sheila

Frey of Willow Street for Best Owner-Bred Female in the Holstein breed. These two trophies will be rotating awards for five years, and then will be retired for display.

Max Brommer of Conestoga earned the Best Owner-Bred Female award in the Ayrshire breed, while Helen Arrowsmith of Peach Bottom left the ceremonies with the Jersey trophy.

Jeff Shenk, Lititz, was named top individual in the county on the dairy judging team and was honored accordingly. His team members, also on hand for recognition, were Gerald Garber, Willow Street; David Kulp, Manheim; and Mark Welk, Peach Bottom. The judging team earned third place in state competition.

For earning fourth place at Penn State's 4-H days this summer, dairy bowl team members, David Stoner, Landisville; Ed Good, Landisville; David Landis, Lancaster; and Joe Rohrer, Lancaster, each received an award.

Overall junior champion awards in each breed were given to Earl Eshleman, Elizabethtown, in the Ayrshire breed; Gerald Garber,



Winners of project awards at Thursday night's annual dairy banquet, as awarded in individual clubs for their blue books and project work, were, front row from left, Stephanie Stoltzufs, Kinzer; Scott Hess, Conestoga; Anthony Spickler, Mount Joy; Helen Arrowsmith, Peach Bottom; second row, Susan Hess, Quarryville; Anita Brommer, Conestoga; Marilyn Landis, Manheim; Karen Shertzer, Lancaster; back row, Jere Shertzer, Lancaster; Danny Welk, Strasburg; Brent Brubaker, Rheems; and Gerald Garber, Willow Street.



Jeff Shenk of Lititz, front right, was honored for his exceptional work with the county judging team, Thursday night, being named top individual in the county. Shenk also placed third at state competition and second high in the Jersey breed at Wisconsin. With him, and also honored for their work, are Mark Welk, Peach Bottom, front left; Gerald Garber, Willow Street, and David Kulp, Manheim, in the back row.

Willow Street, in the Guernsey breed; Thomas McCauley, Elizabethtown, for his Holstein work; and Matthew Arrowsmith, Peach Bottom, for his Jersey projects.

Grand Champion trophies in all five breeds were awarded to winners Anita Brommer, Conestoga, Ayrshire; Earl Eshleman, Elizabethtown, Brown

Swiss; Gerald Garber, Willow Street, Guernsey; Mark Welk, Peach Bottom, Holstein; and Helen Arrowsmith, Peach Bottom, Jersey.

For excellent showmanship and ringside manners, three 4-H'ers were honored, dubbed 'Champion Showmen.' They were Randy Fox, Ephrata, for excellent work in his first year of showing; Thomas

Barley, Conestoga, for the junior division; and Gerald Garber, Willow Street, for the senior age.

Because second place is often just a very small step from first, the Reserve Champion Showmen were honored too. They were Mark Shertzer, Columbia, for his first year; Thomas McCauley, Elizabethtown, in the junior

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The Lancaster Dairy Bowl team placed fourth at Penn State's 4-H days this summer. Honored at the annual dairy banquet for their work were members David Landis, Lancaster, and Joe Rohrer, Lancaster, front row; Ed Good, Landisville, and David Stoner, Landisville, back row.



At Thursday night's banquet, Mary Ann Witmer of Willow Street, left, and Sheila Frey of Willow Street, right, were awarded special trophies in memorium by the families of Jesse G. Balmer and H. Leroy Welk Jr. respectively, both former 4-H leaders. The trophies are Best Owner-Bred Female awards and will be rotating among recipients for five years, after which they will be put on display. Frey, receiving the honor for the Holstein breed, and Witmer for the Guernsey breed, were joined by Max Brommer of Conestoga, back left, and Helen Arrowsmith of Peach Bottom who were recognized in the same division for the Ayrshire and Jersey breeds, respectively.