

## Farm Show steer buyer donates "J.D." to York youths

BY JOYCE BUPP  
Staff Correspondent

YORK — "J.D.," that record-priced 1983 grand champion Farm Show junior steer, continues to make state agricultural history.

York insurance executive Arthur Glatfelter, who purchased the 1,255-pound Angus-Chianina crossbred for a record \$12 per pound, has donated "J.D." back to the 4-H and FFA youth of York County.

In ceremonies last Friday on a downtown York sidewalk, in front of the Chamber of Commerce offices, Glatfelter officially turned the \$15,060 steer back to the interim care of 4-H exhibitor Annette Walter of Airville.

Youth of the county's 4-H and FFA groups will be selling raffle tickets for ten prizes of beef from the winning steer. Five top prizes are packages of steaks, roasts and hamburger, ranging from 50 to 150 pounds. Sixth through tenth place winners earn steak dinners for two at the noted Accomac Inn, overlooking the Susquehanna River north of Wrightsville.

"J.D.'s" final public appearance is scheduled for Feb. 26 at Glatfelter's Insurance firm's office at Leader Heights, when the drawings will be held.

During a press conference that followed the steer's visit to downtown York, Glatfelter released a statement in response to the dozens of inquiries he's gotten on his reasons for purchasing the champion steer.

"In view of the fact that the only natural resource we have left in this country, that is really marketable, is our farm products,

we must all do everything we can to preserve our farming operations and help them grow and prosper. If farmers do not prosper, there is no chance for the rest of us prospering," said Glatfelter in his press release.

The insurance executive added that he did grow up in Loganville, with close ties to the surrounding farms, and has always fostered a great love for animals. He and his wife, Lee, presently raise prize Paso Fino horses on their farm near Craley in southeastern York County.

(The Glatfelter's Paso Fino breeding operations will be featured in a future issue of Lancaster Farming.)

Glatfelter chuckled that he "got carried away with the bidding — but I'm glad I did," and only decided to purchase the steer while on his way to the Farm Show auction. County Extension agent Tony Dobrosky had contacted Glatfelter prior to the sale to share with him the news that York youngsters had taken five of the nine steer championships, and invited him to attend the Friday auction finale.

Lee Glatfelter, who often hosts 4-H groups on visits to the horse breeding operation, says that she told her husband, "Had I not been married to you so many years I wouldn't believe it."

As it was, the bidding momentum was spirited from the start and Glatfelter never even got in an not until the price had passed the \$8-per-pound level. After pausing at \$10, and then again at \$11, he made the final bid to win "J.D."



In a downtown York press conference, champion steer purchaser Arthur Glatfelter turned the \$15,060 steer back to the county's youth for additional fund raising purposes. Glatfelter and wife, Lee, take a last look at their champion purchase before turning him back to the care of exhibitor Annette Walter.

over contender Konhaus of Cumberland County.

After pondering over that weekend what he would do with a \$15,000 steer, Glatfelter contacted Dobrosky to offer the champion back to the county youth.

Proceeds from the raffle will benefit local chapters of the 4-H and FFA, as well as their county level groups. Local clubs and chapters will retain 80 cents of every one dollar ticket sold by their members, with the remaining 20 cents earmarked to the county level.

Annette Walker, "J.D.'s" former owner, is active in both the 4-H and the Red Lion chapter of the FFA. It had been her last chance at showing in the 4-H competition at the Farm Show, where her previous highest placing had been a second.

Although admittedly nervous before the show, both Annette and "J.D." held up well through the grueling competition and auction.

Now the senior 4-H exhibitor faces the most difficult part of all: trying not to become even more emotionally attached to the steer that remains in her care for an additional month.

The champion is a 5/8 Angus x 3/8 Chianina crossbred, calved in May 1981, and bred by the Swecker Brothers of West Virginia. Annette purchased the calf when it weighed about 350 pounds. The name "J.R." after the television-tycoon on the show Dallas, was suggested

to Annette as a label for her calf, since at that time several other steers by that name had taken championships. Inclined to be more original, Annette instead opted for an initial change and came up with the now famous title of "J.D."

In the weeks prior to Farm Show competition, Annette and her sister Brenda, who helped with fitting the winner for his downtown York appearance, made certain he got a long walk every day to strengthen and firm his leg muscles.

Those walks, says Annette, will continue every day for "the champ."

Taking the Farm Show championship was the frosting on the cake of a series of beef show victories capped over the past few

months by the Donald Walter family and their R2 Airville beef operation. They topped the 1982 Pennsylvania Simmental steer sale and the Berks County steer sale, as well as reserve placing and top per-pound money at the Keystone steer sale.

"J.D.'s" total selling price of \$15,060 is believed to be a new overall sale record for the country. While the top price at the internationally-known American Royal Livestock sale at Kansas City went to \$12.35 per pound, the steer commanding that bid was lighter, and the total price a lesser one.

"It'll be a tough act to follow," is the general consensus of all the principals involved in the history-making saga of a champion steer named "J.D."

## York shepherds crown first queen

BY JOYCE BUPP  
Staff Correspondent

DALLASTOWN — Her arms full of rosebuds fashioned from red-dyed wool, Laurie Rodgers flashed a winning smile for York County's sheep and wool producers after winning her crown as the shepherds' first queen.

Sixteen-year-old Laurie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Rodgers, R4, York. A junior at Northeastern High School, she's a cheerleader and member of the hockey and track teams and the ski club.

Runner-up in the sheep and wool queen competition were Holly Crisamore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allan Crisamore, R1, Dover; Linda Waltersdorff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Waltersdorff, Hollywood Drive, York; and Julie Stremmel, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Stremmel, R2, Seven Valleys.

Crowning of the queen highlighted the county's sheep producers' annual roast lamb dinner and meeting, held last Saturday evening at Blymire's Church, Dallastown.

The evening program featured a slide program on sheep production on a Montana ranch, presented by Dr. Clair Engle.

Dr. Engle, extension sheep specialist at Penn State was born and raised on a Montana sheep ranch, located on the Boulder

River, 20 miles from Yellowstone Park. His slide program depicted the events that take place year-round with a large wool-production flock.

The Engle grazing lands covered the 10,000 deeded acres to the ranch, plus large segments of mountain wilderness government land grazed by federal permit. Rainfall may average only 16 inches a year on much of the ground, and 40 acres are the norm for supporting six head of sheep.

The flock of commercially crossed white-faced ewes spent their fall and winters in the mountain valley on the ranch's deeded land. In March, the ewes were brought in off the high ground for pre-lambing shearing, and rations of extra feed just prior to lambing. Young ewes were bred earlier than their older sisters in the flock, so that more attention could be given them at their first lambing.

During the peak of spring lambing season for the several thousand ewes, two shifts of extra men tended the flock to mark newborns and make certain they nursed. After a few days together in small pens to assure that the ewe and lamb were "mated," they were turned out with groups of other ewes and lambs.

Ewes with twins were maintained in a separate grouping and

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Pennsylvania Angus Queen Chris Shive presented Art Glatfelter with a "thank you" breed tie tack during ceremonies held to present the steer to the 4-H and FFA youth of York County.



Back together again: Annette Walter and "J.D." will share still another month. With the grand champion rosettes comes a battery of mixed emotions for this senior 4-H'er.