

Hundreds working together for Middletown Grange Fair

BY HAROLD SHELLY
WRIGHTSTOWN — Approximately 40,000 persons visited the Middletown Grange Fair's 35th annual celebration. The three-day and night event is Bucks County's only agricultural "county fair."

In an interview, Executive Committee member, Mrs. Edith H. Campbell said that this year was the hottest, driest fair in recent memory. She said that a volunteer force of about 200 assists the 160-member Grange in presenting the fair. Volunteer firemen and fire police, a local ambulance squad, volunteer kitchen helpers, ticket sellers, 4-H leaders and farmers all worked together to help make it a success.

"It's like a great big jig-saw puzzle," she said, "all the pieces fit together, and that's what makes Middletown Grange Fair."

She credited the interest of the people in displaying their home grown produce, preserves, crafts or crocheted work, and the farmer and 4-H member in showing their animals, "is what keeps the fair going."

Mrs. Campbell said that planning for the 1984 fair will begin

with the "wrap-up" meeting which will be held this month.

As in most fairs with an agricultural theme, activity in the animal tent attracted the largest crowds. The Bucks County Holstein show, the annual sheep show and the 4-H dairy show were the highlights of fair events.

Over 100 entries in the Holstein show were brought into the ring, and Harry and Aliene Thompson took top honors with the senior champion female and reserve senior champion female and also both animals repeated with Grand Champion Female and Reserve Grand Champion Female. Grand Champion Female and Senior Champion Female was Fountain Farm Elevation Queena, b. 12-16-77, her sire was Round Oak Rag Apple Elevation, Dam: Fountain Farm SP Queen, bred and owned by Harry E. and Aliene Thompson.

Judging was by Harvey Stoltzfus, of Pennwood Farm, Morgantown.

Forty individuals entered 179 animals in the sheep show which was judged by Ken Brubaker of Lancaster.

Thirty-five animals entered by 20 young 4-H members made up the annual 4-H Dairy Show.

According to Grange figures, 3500 chicken barbeque dinners were served in the three days of the fair. No records were available as to the gallons of soda, mounds of pop corn, stacks of beef bar-b-q sandwiches, yards of cotton candy, funnel cake by the linear foot or french fries that were consumed by the hungry hordes of fair visitors.

A side light of the Holsteins how that is strictly localized, is the "Kiddie Class" in which non-4-H'ers under ten years enter and show a dairy animal. For these non-farm youngsters, this is an exciting introduction to life on a dairy farm.

Started by John C. Thompson, Sr., 20 years ago, each entry is instructed on proper moves in the show ring, and then judged exactly like a trained 4-H member. A trophy and ribbons are donated in Thompson's memory each year by Harry and Aliene Thompson.

As daylight fades on the last night, the tempo of the fair starts to slow down and begins dragging toward the 10 p.m. closing. Last minute announcements are made on the P.A. system, mostly about cars parked with their lights on. Final rides are taken on the amusements, the truck loads of livestock are pulling away from the animal tents, commercial displays are being dismembered and the last couple of muscular young men are displaying their prowess with the two-man saw before a clutch of admiring young ladies.

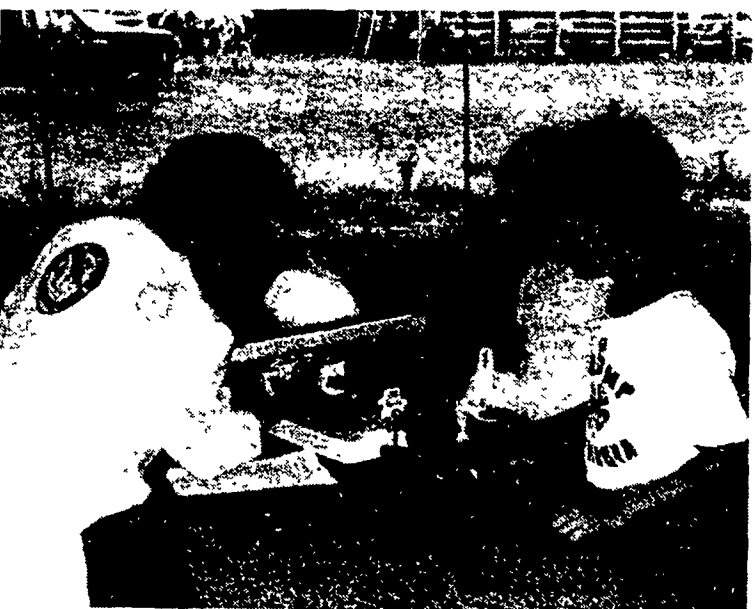
There is a flurry of excitement around the dairy promotion exhibit, where for three days Bucks County Dairy Princess Linda Geissinger, has been handing out samples of cheese and "cheesebutter" and explaining the dairy industry to passers-by.

The excitement is due to the Bucks County Holstein Club's raffle of a registered Holstein calf. Proceeds from the sale of tickets will benefit the Holstein Club, which hopes to raise enough money to construct a permanent dairy building at the middletown Grange Fair.

The calf was donated by the William Gunser family of Active



Holstein grand and reserve champions of the Middletown Grange Fair are held by their owners, Harry E. and Aliene Thompson. The grand champion is held by Aliene and the reserve by Harry.



Mabel Tobias, of Nazareth, judges rabbits of youthful entrants at Middletown Grange Fair.



Bucks County Dairy Princess Linda Geissinger explains Holstein exhibit at Middletown Grange Fair.

Acres Farm, and won by Kathy Cornell of Warminster.

The clean-up continues as the line of cars leaving the parking area grows longer. A cloud of steam envelops the barbeque pit as

volunteer firemen extinguish the charcoal fire where the 3500 chicken dinners were prepared. Lights are going out haphazardly around the lot, and another Grange Fair is over.

4-H'ers in fair spotlight

BY HAROLD SHELLY
WRIGHTSTOWN — Seventeen

Bucks County 4-H clubs were well represented at the 35th annual



4-H champion and reserve in Holstein competition at Middletown Fair are shown with Ryan and Stephen Worthington.

Middletown Grange Fair. According to Debra Gregory, 4-H coordinator from the Bucks Extension Office, there were over 550 individual projects entered in competition. They ranged from leather craft to a home-made working robot presented by Matt Ripley, 14, of the Hilltown club.

According to Ripley, construction of the robot took three weeks. He used a five-gallon kerosene can for the body, and a shortening can for the head. He designed the wiring himself, and got the basic idea from his eighth grade science class.

The 4-H sheep show included 179 animals entered by a total of 40 persons. Ken Brubaker of Lancaster was judge. Two sets of prizes were awarded. All entries in each class were judged simultaneously with prizes in the open class being awarded prior to prizes for 4-H members.

Ten-year-old Jesse Ruth, of Pineville, came away with 4-H Grand Champion Ewe and Reserve Grand Champion Eve in the Suffolk breed, and also with Supreme Champion of the show for all breeds.

The Bucks County 4-H Dairy Roundup was also held as part of the Fair. There were 35 entries from the Unami, Springtown,

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Brown Swiss champion and reserve in 4-H competition at Middletown Fair are exhibited by Tara Engleman and Tricia Engleman.