



Carol, left, and Patty Dreisbach stand among the family herd. They each own over 10 animals and have shown some of them in the All-American show in Kentucky the past three years.

Dairy Champs Reside in Berks County

By Robin Phillips
Staff Correspondent

HAMBURG — Berks County and the top teams and individuals in dairy bowl and dairy judging contests, they've been one and the same these past few years. Berks County is the home of some intelligent, hard-working, dedicated 4-H youth, and they have once again shown what Berks County "dairy kids" can do.

The annual Junior Dairyman of the Year Contest was held in conjunction with the Eastern National Livestock Show on Sept. 1 in Timonium, Md. Sponsored in part by the Elizabeth Ingalls Gillet Foundation, Mountain Brook Farm, Taneytown, Md., and supervised by Diane Garst Flickinger, New Windsor, Md., and Tracey and Janet Stiles, Clearbrook, Va., the contest is open to 4-H or FFA youth between the ages of 14 to 19 years from throughout the states. Youth can compete as members of a team or individually. Contestants are required to judge classes of dairy heifers, steers, cows and goats.

They also undergo two written tests, identify dairy products, the parts of a milking system, grains, and evaluate feedstuffs. They must answer sheets of questions concerning management problems, nutrition, reproduction, animal health, and genetics. Ribbons and plaques are awarded to the high individuals and teams after points are tallied. The high individual in the contest receives a \$1,000 scholarship to be used for further education or as an investment in dairy projects of his choice.

The tests are tough and the kids go through an entire day competing for this scholarship. Scoring is on a point system and after the top 10 are selected, additional interviews with specialists in the fields of veterinary medicine, nutrition, management, and a general interview are required from these participants.

Dr. Carl Brown, F.M. Browns Sons, and Dr. George Merrill, veterinarian with Willow Creek Animal Hospital, have been working with and coaching the Berks County 4-H teams in dairy bowl and dairy judging and knew that they had "tough teams to beat." Of these individuals, Patricia Dreisbach, Carol Dreisbach, William Leshar, Mark Price, Harold Dietrich, Charles Seidel, Sandy Moser, and Ann Kopfer traveled with Dr. Merrill to Maryland to try for the "Junior Dairyman of the Year".

What were the results? Berks County sent its finest, and as William Leshar, Bernville, son of



"She can back wagons real well, that really impresses the fellas," Helene Dreisbach stated proudly of her daughter, Patty.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Leshar, Way-Har Farms, stated. "They know we're there after we leave," when Berks County youth came away with seven of their eight in the top 20 and the eighth in 21st place.

Going home and dropping the check for \$1,000 in her mother's lap to get her attention, was Patricia Dreisbach, Hamburg, R3, the oldest daughter of Dr. Robert and Helene Dreisbach, of Longmeadows Farm.

Second place went to William Leshar, Bernville, R1, while third place went to Patty's sister, Carol Dreisbach. Fifth place went to Sandy Moser, Bally, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Laverne Moser. Eighth place went to Mark Price, Douglassville, R1, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jere Price, and 12th place went to Ann Kopfer, Fleetwood, R1, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kopfer. Taking 14th place was Harold Dietrich, son of Harold and Diane Dietrich, Hamburg, R1, and 21st place went to Charles Seidel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Seidel, Lenhartsville.

These Berks County youth

formed two teams of three and the last two of the "entire team" entered individually.

"It wasn't so much an individual thing as it was for the county, that we went down there," Sandy Moser stated.

She added that they were the only individuals there that cheered and clapped when anyone from their team placed high. As Patty and Carol stated, "When it came to announcing the last three places, we all started screaming," when they realized the last three names to be called were Berks County.

Berks County claimed the Junior Dairyman of the Year in 1982 when Debbie Price, Mark's sister, won the title, and the County team gives her a lot of the credit this year for encouraging them and pushing them to enter.

The 1983 Junior Dairyman, Patricia Dreisbach, currently stands at the top of her class. A vibrant and enthusiastic spokesperson for the dairy industry, Patty takes an active role in the family's Jersey farm,

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