



Dave Weaver, owner, and Jim Gingrich, Meats Supervisor, stand behind their prize winning purchase, "Carlisle" and his exhibitor, Kenianne Rarick. This steer was named Reserve Grand Champion Middleweight at the Farm Show and was the first time in 25 years that a Berks County steer did this well.

Steers Parade at Weavers Farm Market

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS
Staff Correspondent

SINKING SPRING — Everyone realizes that Farm Show steers end up in a meat case or freezer. But several Berks County youth took this one step further. They paraded their prime beef before the patrons of the buyer as they delivered their steers to the front door of his market.

Weavers Farm Market, Rt. 422, Sinking Spring, purchased all four of the Berks County entries at the Farm Show. The market, owned by David Weaver and family, has supported Berks County 4-H throughout the year. This was the first year, however, that Farm Show beef was purchased.

"We did it this year to support the Berks County 4-H projects," Weaver stated.

He confessed to driving out to Harrisburg after hearing that the Rarick steer from R2, Reading, had placed high and he sought to purchase that one. When he saw the other Berks County animals, he

could not resist and successfully bid for all four.

"We're glad to support it," Weaver stated. "I think at these sales there's not enough support for 4-H. It's a good opportunity for businesses."

The purchase of these animals climaxed a year of enthusiastic and active support for Berks County 4-H by Weaver. In September he was the contending bidder on that record \$7.50 per pound lamb sold at the Berks County roundup. He was also the purchaser of the grand champion hog at the Berks County Swine Roundup. "It lends itself well to our image as a farm market," Weaver stated. He also said that he appreciates the advertising and extra publicity he can utilize by buying the top quality products of hardworking 4-H'ers. He stated that such a good organization like 4-H should be supported by all businesses.

As a way of thanking such a staunch supporter of their sales,

the Berks County 4-H Beef Club leaders and members organized this trip to the market. Kenneth and Roseanne Rarick, R2, Reading, housed the four steers after the Farm Show until the planned delivery on January 21st, the Raricks' trucked the animals to the marketplace just west of Sinking Spring. There they were met by the other members and leaders and a small display was set up in front of the store. The four Chianina crossbred steers attracted much attention as many shoppers stopped to view the well groomed "steaks on the hoof."

The four proud Farm Show exhibitors from Berks County were: Kenianne Rarick, R2, Reading; Greg Zook, R1, Oley; Carol Strause, R2, Hamburg; and Melanie Adamski, Pottstown. This promotional effort ended their many hours of preparing their animals for the Farm Show exhibition and sale.

History was made by Kenianne

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The four Berks County steers and their exhibitors line up. They're, left to right, Carol Strause, Greg Zook, Melanie Adamski, and Kenianne Rarick.

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