

The 'Bear' Honored at 4-H Banquet

BY JOYCE BUPP
Staff Correspondent

SEVEN VALLEYS — York 4-H Baby Beef club members showed the "Bear" how much they cared last Saturday night, when they honored him as their 1984 Citation Award winner during the club's annual banquet, held at the Seven Valleys Fire Hall.

Merrill E. Crone, affectionately known by numerous 4-H families as "Bear," is a former Dover High School FFA graduate and joined the 4-H program many years ago as caretaker for the 4-H steers at the York Fair.

Over the years, his interest and support of the Beef club, as well as various other 4-H activities, have made the "Bear" a familiar and well-liked regular at countywide events.

His involvement in the 4-H program broadened during his two years as an Extension assistant, and "Bear" has been dubbed the "resident expert" in tabulating judging contests.

In addition to his work with the local judging events, Crone serves on the official committee for the Keystone Livestock and Meats Judging contest, and is now learning to use the Extension office computer to speed up judging tabulation.

"Bear" is presently employed by the county as coordinator of the

Gypsy Moth program, working in cooperation with the Extension Service.

As a special token of their affectionate appreciation of his continuing support of the Beef Club, members presented Crone with a sidekick, a fuzzy, gray teddy bear, wearing badge of assistant Gypsy Moth program coordinator.

Six beef club members earned special recognition in the steer project Rate of Gain competition. Feeding efficiency on the project animals is tabulated over a 150-day period, with the county average at a daily weight gain of 2.274 pounds.

Finishing in first place in the weight gains was the Simmental entry of Jay Stough, with a gain rate of 3.466 pounds per day. David Erlemeier took the second place spot with a gain of 3.300 pounds on his Chianina steer.

Other high placing entries were Wayne Stough, Jr., 3.166 on a Simmental, Daniel Gross, 3.100 with a Limousin, and Gretta Gross with a crossbred tying with Jimmy Townsend's Summental at a 3.066 gain rate.

Others finishing in the top 10 listing included Nancy Townsend, Kenley Jo Myers, Jenni Druck, Amy Bange and John Eaton, Jr., all with either crossbred or Simmental steers.

At each beef club meeting throughout the year, members are

required to give a roll call presentation on their project and management. Leaders score the presentations, with awards given annually to outstanding roll call performance.

Topping the list in the senior roll call division was Tammy Eisenhour, over second-place Joann Rishel and Krista Rankin in third. Fourth was Chris Shive, with Bill Wise in fifth.

Rookie award go to first-year members 11-years-old or under, scored on the same rules as the senior division. Amy Jo Dutrey finished first in the rookie category, over second-ranked Danny Gorss. Mary Godfrey was named the third place winner.

Recognition was also extended to members who had earlier won top awards during competition, including fitting winners Krista Rankin and Susan Eisenhour, outstanding showman John Eaton, Jr., and Jamie Kohr, with the top commercial project steer.

The county's state-winning meats and livestock judging teams used the banquet setting as an opportunity to honor their coaches. Members of the meats team were Krista Rankin, Tammy Ferree, Jamie Kohr and Tim Ferrence, coached by Mike Gentzler and Kathy Sunday.

Bill Holloway and Brenda Walter coached the livestock team



Six York 4-H beef club members averaged top rates of gain on their project steers. Earning recognition for feeding efficiencies were, front from left, Gretta Gross, Jay Stough, and Danny Gross, and, rear from left, Jimmy Townsend, Wayne Stough, Jr., and David Erlemeier.



York 4-H Beef Club roll call awards went to front, from left, Amy Dutry, Mary Godfrey, Danny Gross, Joann Rishel; and rear, Chris Shive, Bill Wise, Tammy Eisenhour, and Kirsta Rankin.



Winner of the York Beef club's 1984 Citation Award is Merrill E. Crone, better known as "Bear." Presenting the plaque of recognition was County Extension Agent Tony Dobrosky and club president Tammy Eisenhour.

of Chris Shive, Julie Myers, Bill Wise and Bob Livingston. Wise and Livingston also were recognized as the year's two graduates from the beef club. Both are pursuing livestock-related studies at Penn State.

Speaker Karl Kettering was well-received by the group with his Up Your Enthusiasm presentation. Calling enthusiasm the "most contagious and persuasive part of your personality," Kettering told the audience of 350 beef producers and supporters that true enthusiasm can only come through personal involvement, first hand knowledge and a positive attitude.



Cats Get Royal Treatment on Hitz Farm

BY KIMBERLY HERR

LEBANON — Purring softly from his wire cage, Nemo greets visitors as they enter his home.

He arches his back, seeking affection and showing off his sleek beauty "Nemo," Martha Hitz calls, and Nemo answers with a shorter, louder purr.

Nemo is one of the cats that reside on the 97-acre farm of Martha and Mark Hitz, Lebanon. These cats are not typical farm cats. They do not live in the barn. Instead, their home is a building, constructed specifically for them, which is heated in the winter and air-conditioned in the summer.

Seventeen of these cats are Himalayan, three are Persian. All of the cats are characterized by long, soft fur and delicate coloring.

"I've been a cat lover from little on up," Martha said.

Martha began raising these exotic felines when a long-haired blond stray male cat arrived on the Hitz farm. An animal lover by nature, Martha welcomed it and bred it to the short-hair cats that were already on her farm. The kittens that resulted had the long-hair characteristics, and Martha's interest increased.

I had seen pictures of Himalayans, but I had never actually seen any," Martha said.

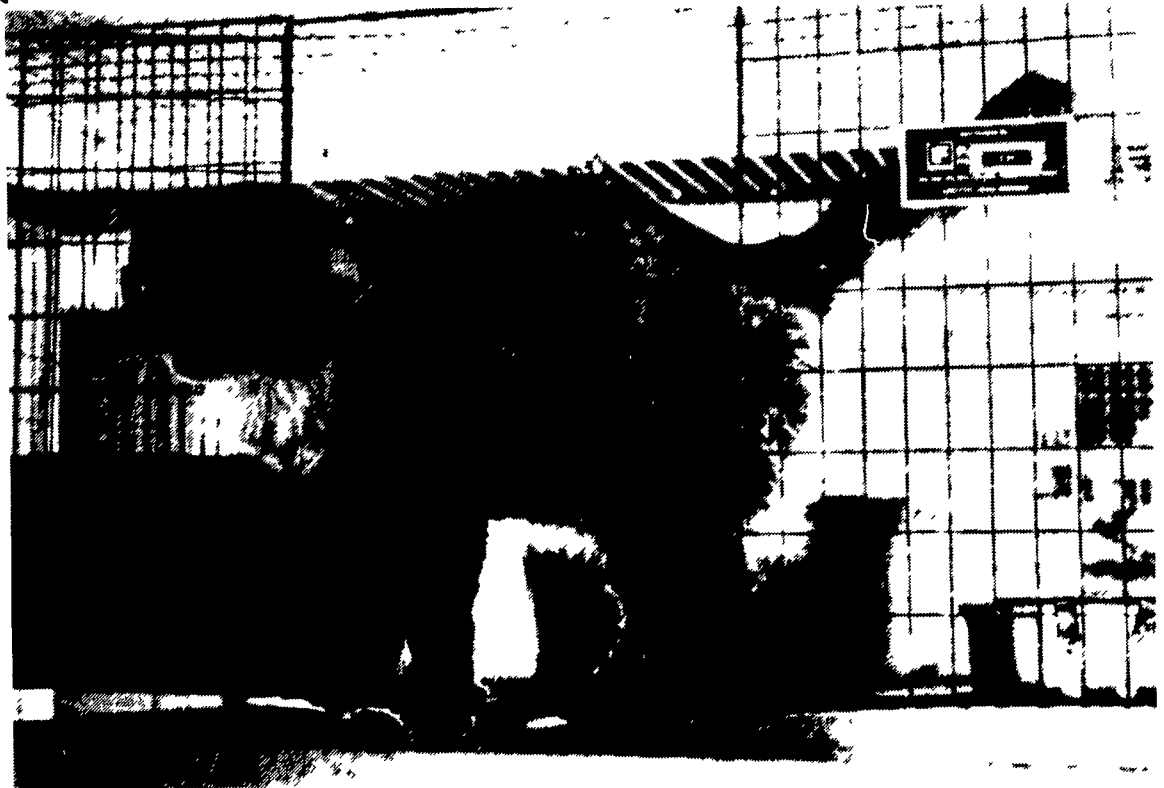
Then Martha's sister-in-law was given a Himalayan cat, and after a few days, she decided to give it to Martha.

That cat, named Russell, is now 14-years-old and the senior member of the cat clan. Martha bred Russell to a Siamese cat she owned and the number of Himalayan cats on the Hitz farm began to grow.

Martha breeds her cats usually once a year, sometimes twice. She keeps some of the offspring, and the others are sold. There are about four kittens per litter, according to Martha, who remembered that one year they had a litter with 10 kittens. Laughing, she remembered that the number of kittens in that litter outnumbered the amount of pigs born to one of the sows that they raise on the farm. It is rare, according to Martha, that the number of kittens outnumber the number of pigs.

The offspring of Martha's cats have been sold far and wide, one is in Canada, one is in Georgia and there are several in Virginia.

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According to Martha Hitz, Lebanon County cat breeder, cast can be trained to answer you when you call. A shining example of this is Nemo, a long-point Himalayan cat who answers to his name.