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Coldsprings tops Md. State Holstein Show

Premier Breeder banner goes to Kingstead Farms

BY LAURA ENGLAND

TIMONIUM, Md. — A 4-year-old cow from Coldsprings Farm, New Windsor, reigned as grand champion during the two-day Maryland State Holstein Show held at the Timonium Fairgrounds last weekend.

Coldsprings Ira Kewpie, owned by Marlin Hoff, was named grand champion female over the 290 Holstein entries. Kewpie was also awarded best udder in her class and has a solid milk and fat production record to back up her credentials.

Sired by Coldsprings Ira, Kewpie recorded 21,270 pounds of milk and 799 pounds of fat as a 2-year-old. Her dam is Coldsprings Wiz Isabel-OC.

The reserve champion title went to Kingstead Farms, Damascus, and their senior 2-year-old entry, Kingstead Valiant Suzie. Sired by SWD Valiant, Suzie produced 25,320 pounds of milk and 781 pounds of fat during her first lactation.

Kingstead Farms was also named premier breeder and premier exhibitor for its 12th time. Owned by Doug, Harold, Irving, Jane and Mary King, Kingstead Farms exhibited 16 animals in the show. With a herd of 200 registered Holsteins, the Kings have been in the show circuit since 1949 when they showed as 4-H members. In addition to showing at the Maryland State Show, they also participate in county, district and regional shows.

In junior show competition, run consecutively with the open show, Audra Debnam, Worton, exhibited the grand champion animal. Art-Acres Elevation Holly Cari, a 3-

year-old and winner of the Futurity Show, won the title. Cari is owned by Audra's brother Raney Debnam.

Shane Schwartzbeck, Union Bridge, and his 3-year-old entry captured the reserve junior show champion title. Windy Knoll View Lad Jina took the reserve honors in both the junior show and the Futurity Show.

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It's time for youth to pick show winner

BY JACK HUBLEY

HARRISBURG — To Pennsylvania 4-H and FFA members, the Farm Show is the Big One. The show features more than 2300 animal exhibits, with nearly 700 junior exhibitors vying for top honors in the horse, sheep, junior market swine, junior beef, junior dairy cattle, and dairy goat categories.

With more than \$13,000 awarded in these junior categories, the competition is not to be taken lightly, and what happens during the Farm Show's week-long summit represents a year's tough climb for aspiring winners.

What does it take to walk away with the gold at Pa.'s Olympic-class livestock show? A look at the strategies of three of this year's winners sheds some light on livestock selection.

A four-year veteran of Farm Show competition, Jan Waltz, the

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Show judge Lloyd Boyd, left, stands with his Open Show champions, Coldsprings Ira Kewpie, shown by Marlin Hoff, and Kingstead Valiant Suzie, by Doug and Irving King.

PMMB suspends lowfat, skim milk pricing

BY LAURA ENGLAND

HARRISBURG — In a temporary measure, the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) Monday suspended minimum price control for lowfat and skim milk throughout the state.

The board, in response to pressure stemming from a petition filed by two Western Pennsylvania cities, suspended minimum retail prices for all two percent, one percent, other lowfat and all skim milk products. The deregulation goes into effect Monday, April 23.

The petition, filed by Pittsburgh and Erie and the Lawson Company, an Ohio dairy firm, called for an end to minimum retail pricing on lowfat and skim milk in that region. A similar decision was passed by the State Commonwealth Court Feb. 13 in the Philadelphia area.

The board's decision, temporary in nature, will remain in effect until PMMB has compiled and analyzed all its financial reports, according to Gene Venno, PMMB executive secretary. At that time a

hearing, to include consumer, agency and milk dealer representatives, will be scheduled.

"We can't set a hearing until all financial reports are in and analyzed," Venno said. "We hope to schedule the hearings by late June or early July."

Although the decision is temporary, state dairy farmers and farm organizations are concerned that permanent deregulation will cause problems in the industry.

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Every week is Grange Week for Buffingtons

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

CHADDS FORD — "I grew up in town without any ag background and didn't know a thing about Grange," explains Mary Buffington, of R1 Chadds Ford, Chester County.

"In the beginning, I only knew that Bill and I didn't have any dates on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month because those were Grange meeting nights."

After they were married though, it didn't take Mary long to become deeply involved in Grange with her husband, William. And today, they

are among couples who stand in the forefront of any roster of active Grangers who work continuously for the betterment of rural America and its residents.

William and Mary Buffington literally eat, sleep and live Grange.

For them, every week is Grange Week.

As they discuss their deep and concerned involvement in Grange and its activities, some good-natured banter enters into the conversation about who may outrank who in Grange.

William, who hails from an ag family that has since gone out of fulltime production farming, has about a decade of seniority over his wife. This June will mark 39 years of membership. Mary is observing some 28 years.

But of the many Grange offices they've held, Mary can number a national post. For the past four years, she has served as Director of Women's Activities for the

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William and Mary Buffington, R1 Chadds Ford, stand in front of Kennett Grange No. 19 — once a one-room school house that has served as meeting hall since 1932.

