

Pa. Charolais Assoc. hold first Field Day

BY JACK HUBLEY

MCVEYTOWN — It almost seemed to be prearranged. As ranks of immaculate, billowy "Charolais" clouds herded south and east across a bright blue sky, a herd of 25 snow-white heifers and steers was being scrubbed, teased and brushed in preparation for the Pennsylvania Charolais Association's Field Day last Saturday.

Held at the Bratton Charolais Farm just outside McVeytown in Mifflin County, the event marked the first field day sponsored by the Pennsylvania association in its 25 years of promoting Charolais cattle.

Previous area Charolais events had been held under the auspices of the Colonial Charolais Association, representing breeders from 11 states in the Northeast. On hand to promote Saturday's activities was Colonial Charolais queen, Marty Chambers, who presented trophies and ribbons to the winning show entrants.

And if the weather proved to be unbeatable for Saturday's event, so did two sisters from Washington County, Crystal and Carla Clutter.

A fitting contest kicked off the morning activities, with each participant having one hour to ready his or her animal for the

show ring. With the heifers dressed in their Sunday best, Judge Jay Temcheck awarded senior champion fitting honors to Crystal Clutter, and named her sister, Carla, champion among the juniors.

Other senior fitting placings were: second, Melanie Hemminger; third, Kirk Fisher. Junior second and third places went to Kent Fisher and Clifford Higgins.

After delivering their one-two punch in the fitting competition, the Clutter girls went on to dominate the heifer show, placing first in all five classes. Heifer show placings were as follows:

Class 1: first, Crystal Clutter; second, Ruth Ann Grace.

Class 2: first, Carla Clutter; second, Ruth Ann Grace.

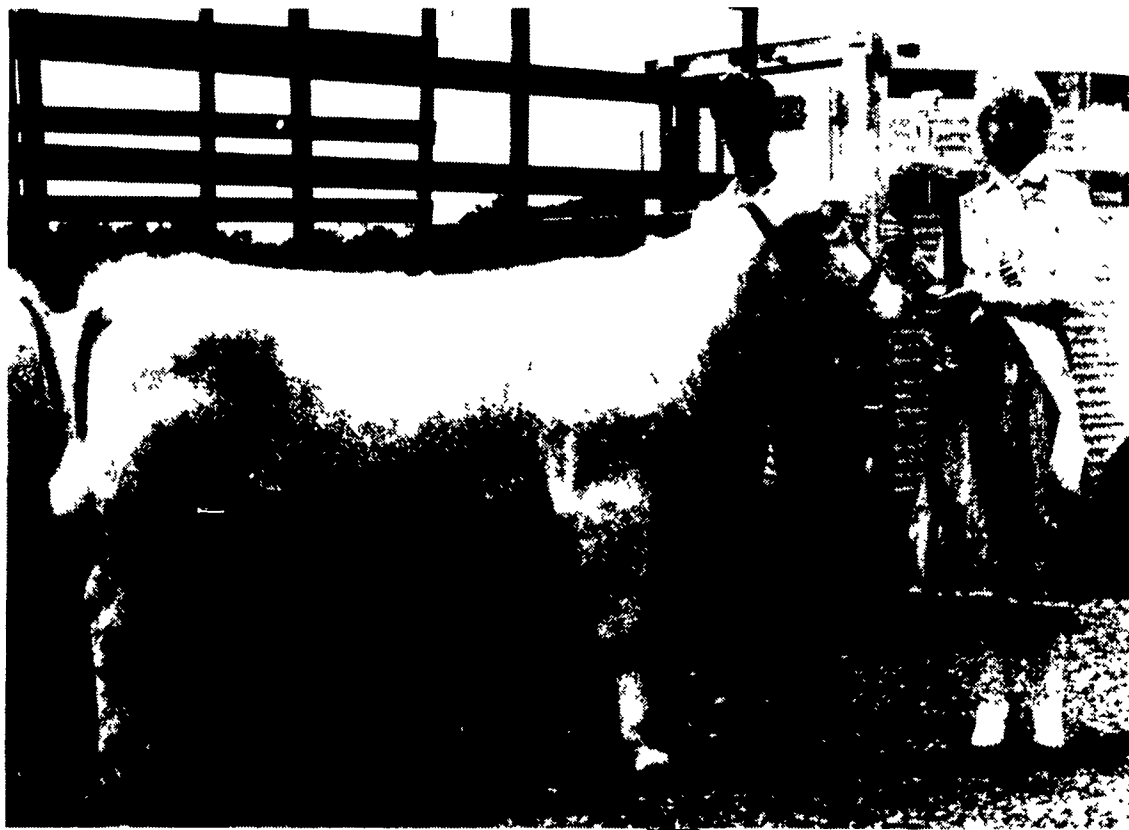
Class 3: first, Crystal Clutter; second, Scott Bratton; third, Kirk Fisher.

Class 4: first, Carla Clutter; second, Kent Fisher; third, Clifford Higgins.

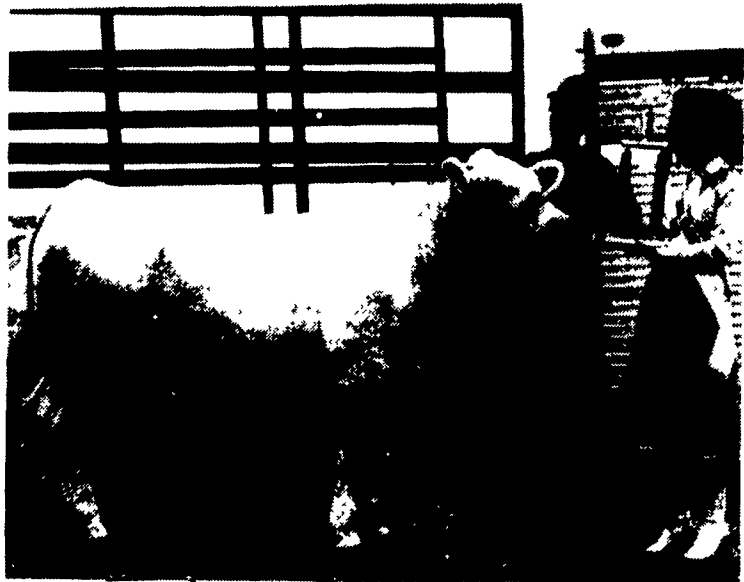
Class 5: first, Crystal Clutter; second, Clifford Higgins; third, Scott Bratton.

Both the grand champion and reserve grand champion selected from the above winners were shown by Crystal Clutter.

After an hour lunch break, (rest assured the main course wasn't



Grand champion heifer at the Pennsylvania Charolais Association's first annual Field Day was shown by Crystal Clutter. Presenting the trophy is Colonial Charolais queen Marty Chambers.



Exhibiting the Field Day's champion steer was Brian Bilger of McVeytown. Bilger's steer placed first in the lightweight division.

pork barbeque) events continued with the steer show.

Brian Bilger's entry was dubbed champion, with Scott Bratton's steer selected as reserve. Both animals were lightweight division winners. Steer placings in the two divisions were:

Heavyweight: first, Clifford Higgins; second, Kirk Fisher.

Lightweight: first, Brian Bilger; second, Scott Bratton; third, Kent Fisher.

Turning to the showmanship contest, the class act of Carla and Crystal again dominated competition. Following are the showmanship placings:

Junior showmanship: first, Carla Clutter; second, Clifford Higgins; third, Kent Fisher.

Senior showmanship: first, Crystal Clutter; second, Melanie Hemminger; third, Kirk Fisher.

When host Ray Bratton stepped from the barn leading his herd sire, Mr. Expectation 3298, everyone knew it was time for the weight-guessing contest. The winning estimate came within five pounds of the bull's official weight of 2,695 pounds. An Expectation son, this bull was 1982 grand champion at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

The busy day at Bratton's farm concluded with cow/calf matching, and a livestock judging contest, and, from all appearances, no one went home disappointed.

Commenting on the Association's first Field Day, president Don Bowman was pleased with the turnout of 100 Charolais fanciers.

"We plan to make the Field Day an annual event for the Pennsylvania Association," he concluded.

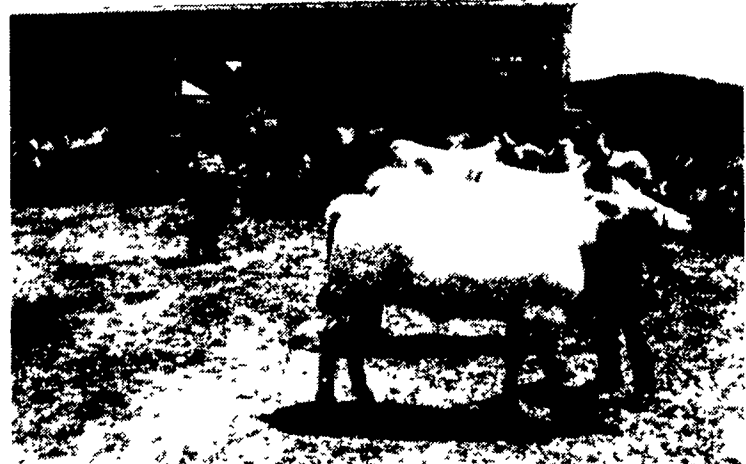
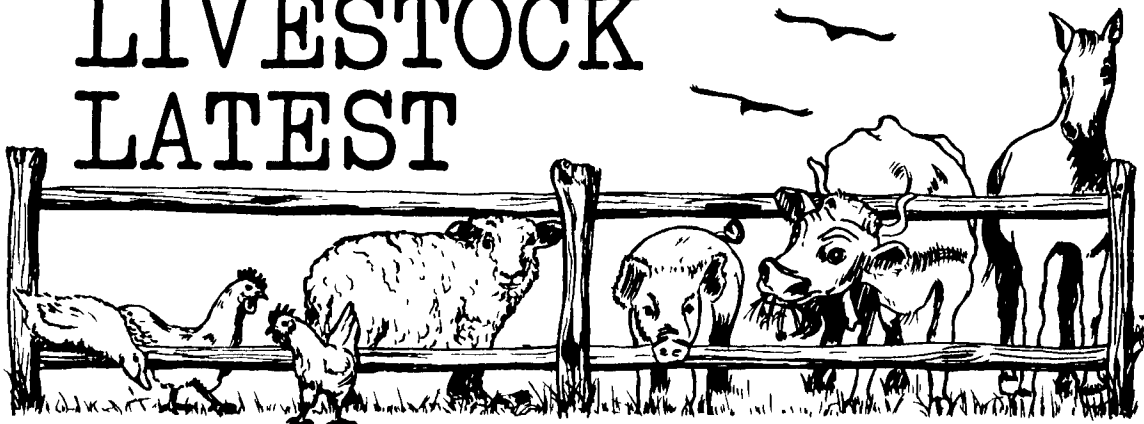


Sisters Crystal (foreground) and Carla Clutter proved to be a tough act to follow during field day competition.



Placing first in junior showmanship competition was Carla Clutter. Her sister Crystal won senior showmanship honors.

LIVESTOCK LATEST



Handling judging responsibilities was Jay Temcheck of Bellefonte, a 1983 Penn State Animal Production graduate.