

365-lb. pumpkin, 20-lb. cabbage, 81-lb. melon

BY JOYCE BUPP
Staff Correspondent

YORK — Ten lucky gardeners picked up \$25 checks as the York Fair wound down last weekend, winners in the fair's first horticulture record-setting varieties contest. Although the entries we're most impressive, none topped the world records to win the offered \$1,000 prize.

All but one winner was grown in York County. A Chester contain, H. Roland Leslie of Coatesville, lugged a 365 pound pumpkin to the fairgrounds to win the giant pumpkin category, and handily outweighed any other entry - of any variety - in the spacious Horticulture Hall.

In contrast was another special rosette winner, a 1.66-pound pear from the backyard orchard of James Wilson of Glen Rock R2.

"This is only the second year the tree has fruited," commented Wilson, of the five-year-old Stark Bros. Jumbo Pear variety, which still has two more impressive, but a trifle smaller, fruits on the tree. Last year's single pear borne by the tree weighed a pound and a half.

Wilson sprayed the spur pear on the same schedule as the rest of his collection of various fruiting trees, about every two weeks. He utilized mostly a combination of Sevin and Captan, with the occasional addition of Furban for controlling black rot.

When a friend sent Tom Doll, Red Lion R4, three watermelon seed last spring, the midwesterner had no way of knowing the 50-cent-per-seed gift would grow into a \$25 prize, whopping 81-pounder.

Doll planted the three seeds individual peat pots and two eventually developed into fledging plants. According to Mrs. Doll, they took the plants to their son's garden at Loganville, where they were put in the ground under black plastic mulch.

Such vigorous growth vined out

the the family first believed it would be a case of all stalk and no fruit, but eventually they began finding miniature melons hidden under the lush leaves.

At first melon taken off weighed 55 pounds, and although the color was a sort of pale pink, the flavor was tasty and the flesh a sandy texture. Three more melons still await sampling, in addition to the prize winner.

Encouraged by numerous friends to enter the monster melon in the fair, Mrs. Doll now muses, "I wonder how many hands might have rubbed over that melon during the fair's nine days?"

"When we eat sauerkraut, I'll remember that head of cabbage," says the grower of the giant 19.75 pound cabbage, Dean Becker of Spring Grove. Actually, the eight quarts of sauerkraut were made from a companion plant head that topped the scale at over 20 pounds, but split. To avoid the same fate with his entry, Becker picked it a couple of weeks prior to the fair and held the cabbage under refrigeration. By the time the fair had expired so had the winning cabbage.

Growing supersize entries for the fair's horticulture exhibits has become a sort of family endeavor for the Beckers, and a few years ago, their son was the exhibitor of a very large pumpkin.

"We try something new every year for novelty," adds Becker. "Now we're ready to try it again in 1985."

Becker raised the winning cabbage plants from seed of a crossed variety, Hybrid O S Cross. Although he does make sure that abundant fertilizer is available for his garden crops, and keeps watch on any insect problems, the winner is quick to credit the summer's wet weather for boosting his cabbage crop.

Other winners in the York fair records class are:

Cantaloupe - 11 pounds, Cynthia



Giant pumpkin of H. Roland Leslie, Coatesville, at just over 365 lbs. handily beat all comers at York Fair. Glen Rock hobby fruit grower Jim Wilson compares his winning pear with one of more normal size.

Shearer, Spring Grove R4.
Gourd - 17.85 pounds, William Black, Dallastown.
Potato - 2.75 pounds, Altred

Miller, Rohlers Church Road, Dover.
Tomato - 2 pounds, 3 oz., Ada Trone, Spring Grove R3.

Apple - 1.34 pounds, Russ Sechrist, Red Lion R2.
Squash - 120.5 pounds, Russell Becker, Spring Grove R2.



York FFA's win big at fair

YORK — York County FFA members kept busy in the show ring at the York Fair, claiming honors for several chapters taking part from across the county.

Sheep and beef competition opened the FFA contests during the first half of the fair. John Eaton, Jr., of the Red Lion chapter, snagged grand and reserve championships in both Dorset and Suffolk sheep breed shows, then finished off by claiming the master showman award. Hampshire awards went to Dover chapter's Daryl Reedy and Ed Keeny of Red Lion won all the rosettes in the market lamb category. Judge for the sheep show was J.G. Warfield of Marriotsville, Md.

In the beef showing, Penn State's professor emeritus Herman Purdy picked Jim Eisenhour of Dover for the beef breeding and master fitting honors, with

classmate Deborah Hoffman the market steer winner.

During the second half of the fair, dairy and hog contests came into the spotlight, with John Morris of Maryland making the dairy selections while Dennis Grumbine of Lebanon worked the swine shows.

Brown Swiss winnings split among several entries. Grand and junior champion was the senior calf entry of Lisa Kilgore of Red Lion, edging out her sister Kelly's reserve junior and reserve grand senior yearling. Senior champion was the junior two-year-old shown by James Anderson, Jr., of Kennard-Dale.

C.E. Hubbard III, Red Land chapter, took the Holstein champion ribbons with his three-year-old. Reserve senior and grand was the two-year-old shown by Loretta Cooper of Kennard Dale. Kennard Dale's Jon Hash exhibited the junior champion and classmate Randy Gross the reserve heifer with their junior and senior calves. Kelly Kilgore earned the champion fitter title

while Loretta Cooper was chosen top showman.

Ron Wilson of Kennard Dale beat out the competition to win the Yorkshire breeding class with his junior yearling sow, while also picking up the reserve spot with a January sow.

Veteran junior hogman Gus Parlett from Red Lion walked off with grand and reserve in both the Spotted Poland and Chester White shows, while Red Lion's Michele Stearn and Melissa Peters split the champion and reserve spots in Duroc classes.

Greg and Beth Innerst garnered still more championships for the Red Lion chapter when their entries took all the awards in the Berkshire breed category. Innerst also got the nod as champion fitter over the hog show, with Jeff Stern of Dover named the champion showman.

With livestock competition behind them, several FFA members climbed onto tractors to maneuver rigs through a course (Turn to Page A33)

Twin wins dominate hog show

YORK — A capsule rundown on the open class hog results at the York Fair takes on the overtures of double talk.

Selected grand champion barrow over all breeds was the purebred Duroc exhibited by Jim and Gus Parlett of Airville, and bred by the Roger Bankert family of Hanover, a Duroc purebred operation.

Reserve grand barrow overall, on the other hand, was shown by Greg Bankert and bred by the Parlett's from their purebred Chester White lines. Earlier, the same hog had taken champion market barrow for young Bankert in the 4-H judging, along with his claiming 4-H Duroc honors, and master fitting and showmanship awards.

Bankert says champion hogs need to be "looked at every day." In addition, he favors running his top pick for daily exercise, and Greg and his winner regularly jogged a quarter-mile for winning show-ring fitness. Ground corn and supplement comprise the diet of these hogs, along with "extra added ingredients" which top hog growers will only hint about.

Also in the top winners' circle was hogman John Strawbridge of Stewartstown, showing the champion pair overall, a class winning set of Hampshires.

Strawbridge took home top awards in both Yorkshire and Hampshire open shows, while the Bankert family won numerous Duroc breed awards, and Parletts picked up a host of ribbons in both Spotted and Chester White competition. — J.B.



Judge Dennis Grumbine, left, picks Duroc of Jim and Gus Parlett as champion overall at York Fair.



Berkshire open and FFA classes were topped by entry of Greg and Beth Innerst at York Fair.

There she is, Miss...

YORK — That perennially favorite 4-H dairy event, calf dressing, wrapped up the 4-H activities at the York Fair last Thursday evening, with five teams turning out for the costuming fun.

Junior teams paraded into the ring first, to garb their sometimes reluctant heifer calves in a variety of get-ups. Judge Michael Sleeper, of Atlantic Breeders, had the difficult task of selecting winners.

Awarded the blue ribbon in the junior category were Janelle Boyer and Angie Lang, who fastened fake horns on the head of their heifer for the title role in the entry, dubbed "The Devil went down to Georgia."

In contrast came the red ribbon winners, Alyson Duncan and Amy Shoemaker, portraying a wedding party. A bovine Miss America,

entered by Tim Warner and Rich Bupp, placed third.

Senior first place went to Patty Bupp and Lesley King, dressed as Indians with their calf in a cardboard canoe. Bridgette Boyer and Angie Lange, in keeping with the news of the week, had a second Miss American entry.

Commodity dressups followed, with youngsters publicizing their favorite farm commodity. Outfitted in a dairy theme, little Chad and Amy Timmer won the junior division, and 4-H sheep exhibitor Melissa Trostle was successful in the senior class wearing her all wool coordinated outfit and leading one of her project lambs.

The evening's fun events wrapped up with a hilarious - if messy - ice cream eating contest. — J.B.

Myers gets FFA award

YORK — Julie Myers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Myers, Sr. of R1 Wellsville, was chosen as York County's Outstanding FFA Member of 1984 at the York Fair.

She received an expense paid trip to the National FFA Convention and American Royal Livestock Show which are to be held in Kansas City, Mo., the week of Nov. 5.

Myers is a senior at the Northern York High School where she is an honor student and reporter of their local FFA chapter and is currently

serving as vice-president of the York County FFA. She attended the Pennsylvania FFA Convention this past summer as a delegate representing York County. In 1982 and 1983 she also attended the state convention and participated in the state livestock judging contests and received gold and bronze awards respectively. In 1982 Myers was a member of the livestock judging team representing Pennsylvania at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Mass. which placed 2nd overall.