

# Berks youth, coaches excel in dairy judging

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS  
Staff Correspondent

BERKS COUNTY—"I felt that they evaluated cattle as well as any team I worked with," stated Carl Brown, Birdsboro. He spoke of the Berks County 4-H Dairy Judging Team and their representation of Pennsylvania. Brown and the team recently returned from Louisville, Ky., where they placed second in the nation in dairy cattle judging.

The team consisted of Todd Miller, R1 Hamburg; William Leshar, R1 Bernville; and Jimmy Younker, R2, Fleetwood. The fourth member, Charles Seidel, R1 Hamburg, went along as assistant coach. Seidel was ineligible for this contest since he placed seventh nationally in the dairy judging contest in Madison, Wisc., earlier this year. The coaches included Carl Brown, salesman and nutritionist with F.M. Browns Sons Feeds; Christine Williams, vo-ag teacher and FFA advisor at Kutztown High School, and Jerry Crone, Brown Swiss and Guernsey breeder.

This was the first year Pennsylvania was represented with a 4-H team in Kentucky. "We tried to find another contest, high level competition," Brown stated.

Brown has extensive experience coaching dairy judging teams. Working in extension and teaching in Virginia, he coached the 1978 Virginia 4-H team to the national championship. Since moving to Berks, he has coached the dairy judging teams for five years.

Because two of these youth were not eligible to judge in Harrisburg this year, they had judged and won before, (they wanted to find stiffer competition. With Todd Miller in his last year of 4-H, the three friends also wanted to try their skills as a team one last time.

"It seemed that we all clicked together," Jimmy Younker said about the team. "They're two of the best friends I ever had,"

William Leshar added.

The national contest in Kentucky is only about four years old, according to Brown. This year 18 teams from 14 states were represented. The Maryland 4-H team took the blue with a total combined score of 1725 using the top three scores. Pennsylvania took the red ribbon, losing by only three points with their score of 1722.

To place this high overall, the team needed high scores in each of the six divisions. This is where the individual team members excelled. Todd Miller placed first in the Ayrshire judging with a score

of 100. With Leshar taking eighth and Younker 19th, the team finished in second place.

In the Brown Swiss judging, James Younker lead the team with a first place in that division. Pennsylvania again took second place in Brown Swiss.

With the Guernsey class placings, James Younker placed high on the team with a third place to Leshar's 15th place and Miller's 19th placing. With these averaged, Pennsylvania came on top in the Guernsey division with a first place for the team.

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William Leshar with his many 4-H and FFA awards.

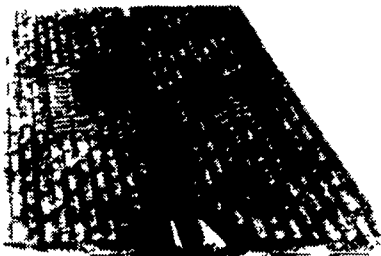
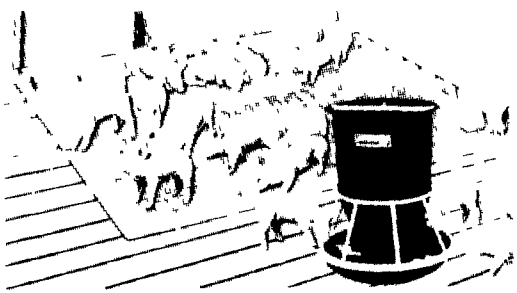


Todd Miller displays major trophies and awards he has won.



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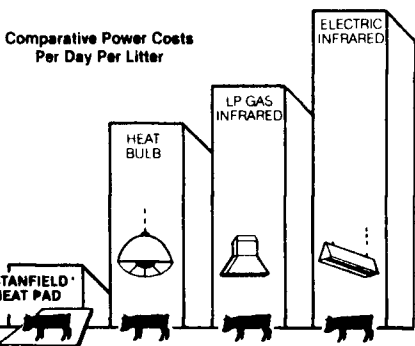
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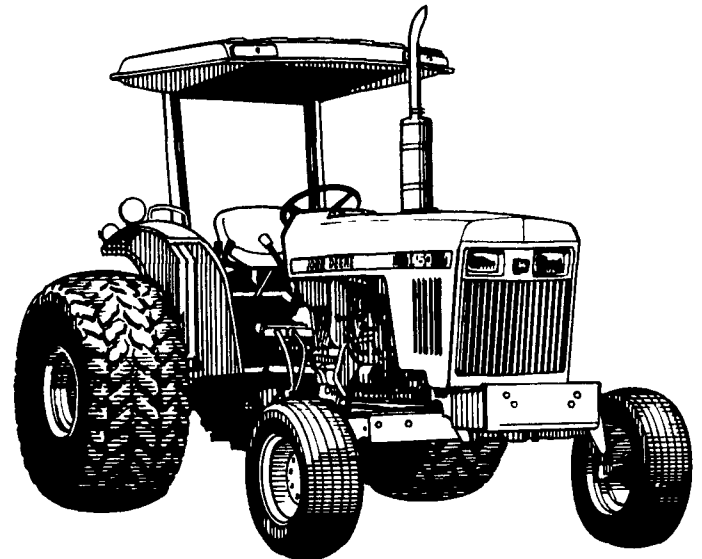
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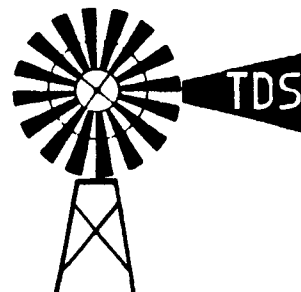
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