

# Berks dairy judging

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Holstein individual placings again saw Todd Miller at the top of the list as he helped Pennsylvania take third place in this division.

"I don't think we blew this class as bad as the judge blew the class," Younker stated about the team's Jersey class scores. "That's what blew it for us (the first place title)," he added.

In the Jersey division, the youths placed eighth as a team with Younker placing highest in individual scores at 11th place.

But, the best was yet to come. In the Reasons Division, the hardest according to the 4-Hers, Pennsylvania came in first. Miller led with a second place, Leshar took sixth place, and Younker followed

with 17th place individually. Their combined team score was almost 10 points higher than the second place, Maryland team.

"This is the one I always want to see our teams win," Brown stated. Being able to defend reasons orally, remembering the animals, how you placed them the way you did, and putting it together into an oral presentation marks the real skill of a dairy cattle judge, according to Brown.

"Everything was tough down there," Younker stated. Younker is the 18-year-old son of Martin and Darlene Younker, R2 Fleetwood. Currently working off the farm to earn extra money, he enjoys helping his father with their 60

head of Holsteins and 320 acres at their Red Fever Farm.

He started judging four years ago and says that Holsteins are the easiest to judge. Fifth at the state level earlier this year, he said, "I always look for something with a lot of style and balance, with a pretty good udder." "You go to a class and you can easily tell the top or bottom, or a pair." In his own cows he looks for "real good udders," he added.

"I'm really critical about the legs, cause we have a freestall barn. Without good legs, she won't stay around long," William Leshar stated. Leshar is the 18-year-old son of Wayne and Shirley Leshar, R1 Bernville. He looks forward to graduating from Penn State and returning to his parents' WayHar Farm. Every other weekend he makes the trip home to help farm the 900 acres and care for the 100 cows.

This Penn State sophomore has been judging cows since he was 12 years old. He was a member of the 1983 Hamburg FFA team that placed 10th in national competition in Kansas City. He was also on the 1982 Berks County Dairy Bowl Team that placed second in national competition in Kentucky.

Leshar credits Carl Brown and all the other youth in the county for the success of Berks County's teams most of the time. "Carl keeps drilling us. He tapes us. You really sound a lot different when you hear yourself. You can catch your own mistakes," he stated.

"A lot of it was the other kids. We're always competing against each other and there are a lot of good ones in this county," he added.

"Of all the coaches I've had, Carl Brown and Chris Williams have put a lot of time in," stated Todd Miller. Miller is in his last year of 4-H. He is the 19-year-old son of Ernest and Joyce Miller, R1, Hamburg, and is the youngest in an extremely dairy orientated

family. Owning 25 cows of his own, he is in partnership with his father and older brother, Scott, on their Mil-Joy Farm of 650 acres and 220 Holsteins. Todd has charge of the crops.

The team had to judge cow and heifer classes in each breed and give three sets of reasons. Miller stated that the Holstein classes were the easiest for him too, but down there "they were all pretty tough." Regarding the different breeds, he added, "with Jerseys they're real particular about breed character." "Brown Swiss can be thicker." In his own cows, he looks for a sound pedigree.

For these three dairy judges, the chance to compete and excel at this level will remain a highlight of their 4-H experiences. "I'm really proud of it," Leshar added. "I really appreciate our county.

There are a lot of good kids. You can't ask for a better county," he concluded.

Although these team members attributed much of their success to their leaders, coaches, and friends, when asked about their future goals, major achievements, and biggest satisfactions in life so far, their answers showed why they are excellent dairy cattle judges.

"Just being on the farm and working with the animals," Leshar explained was his greatest satisfaction. "My father lets me make a lot of management decisions too," he added.

"Working at home and having the responsibility of making decisions," was Miller's answer. Plans for the future "Stay at home," he concluded.

"I want to farm," Younker stated.

# Gettysburg Grange eyed

HARRISBURG—The Pennsylvania State Grange is sponsoring a public meeting for residents of the Gettysburg area to discuss the organization of a new Grange to serve Gettysburg, Littlestown and surrounding communities. The meeting will be held Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Adams County Rural Electric Cooperative Building, located on Rt. 34, one mile north of Gettysburg.

The Grange is a rural farm organization representing 42,000 members throughout Penn-

sylvania, and 430,000 members nationwide. Pennsylvania was 553 local township granges, organized in 67 counties. The Grange provides an organized voice on legislative issues of interest to farmers and rural people as well as many member services, such as a food cooperative, insurance, accounting and tax preparation, credit union, and more.

State Master Charles Wismer said the Grange is looking at the Gettysburg area for a new Grange because residents expressed interest in having a Grange there, and "because no Grange currently serves that area." Adams County has one other Grange located at Biglerville.

Wismer and Harry Massey, National Grange membership director, will be the keynote speakers at the meeting. The public is invited to attend and refreshments will be served.



Jim Younker is in charge of Red Fever Farm's calf feeding.

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