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Pa. Cattleman of the Year Paul Heffner (left) accepts his award from 1984 Cattlemen's Queen Heather Schofield and Harry Stambaugh.

Pa. 'rancher' is Cattleman of the Year

BY JACK HUBLEY
BOILING SPRINGS — The Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association honored its best amid the elegance of Cumberland County's Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs last Saturday. For the first time this year, the Cattleman of the Year shared the spotlight with the Seedstock Producer and Industry Service Awards. The selection of this year's Cattlemen's Queen climaxed Saturday evening's award ceremonies. Named Cattleman of the Year was Paul Heffner, of Adams-

County, a 14-year veteran of the association who runs a cow/calf and feedlot operation near Gettysburg. "My operation is more like a ranch," says Heffner, who pastures his herd of 150 commercial Angus cows for seven months at a density of one cow per two acres. Heffner utilizes about 400 acres of pastureland and farms an additional 70 to 80 acres of hay ground. A Berks County native, Heffner grew up on a general livestock farm, raising chickens, hogs, (Turn to Page A38)

Land values, good managers blunt credit crisis here

BY JAMES H. EVERHART

It's not much comfort to financially pressed Pennsylvania farmers that the situation is worse elsewhere

But it is. And according to most agricultural lenders in Pennsylvania, the local credit situation — including bad debts, foreclosures, delinquencies and the like — is nowhere near as bad as the dark picture presented in other parts of the country, especially the Midwest.

There are, of course, some problem areas. The situation nationwide for dairy farmers, for instance, looks uncertain, for sure. And there are some lenders with a lot of problem loans.

But the situation overall remains strong for several important reasons, according to a survey of officials at local lending departments.

• First, local products and crops have been sold domestically, for the most part, so Pennsylvania farmers and producers are less dependent on factors they can't control, like the value of the dollar and trade embargoes that can shut off foreign markets overnight.

• Second, there's outstanding diversity of local crops and ag products — so blights and diseases — A.I. is an excellent example — can't have the absolutely devastating effect on the local

economy that could result in an area with less crop variety.

• Third, farmers in the state have been more conservative than their midwestern brethren in purchasing land and equipment. The percentage of very highly leveraged farms — or those with debt-to-asset ratios of over 70

percent — is lower in the Northeast than in any other area of the country, according to USDA's recently released report on the farm credit situation.

• Fourth, land values have remained relatively stable in Pennsylvania over the past (Turn to Page A20)

PHA to host spring show and sales

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania Holstein breeders will be welcoming the arrival of spring this week with two days of "Pennsylvania on Parade" festivities.

The dairy event will feature one of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association's most important annual shows, the state bred heifer sale and the state calf sale.

Heralding a new show season, the state spring show will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

For the last two years the Ed Doeberiner family of Jamestown has captured the grand champion honors in the Holstein showing.

The state bred heifer sale is scheduled for Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. Eighty outstanding bred

heifers from across Pennsylvania will be selling. Over 55 dams are scored Very Good or Excellent, and more than 60 dams have records over 20,000 milk.

Concluding the two days of activities will be the state calf sale on Friday morning, starting at 10:30 a.m. Selling are 170 top pedigreed calves. Nearly every dam is scored Very Good or Excellent, and more than 120 have milk records exceeding 20,000 pounds.

With a competitive spring show and 250 head of quality calves and bred heifers selling in two days, Pennsylvania on Parade continues to be one of the most important Holstein events on the calendar.

Watch for coverage in next week's Lancaster Farming.

Leadfield heifer commands

\$77,000 at Irish Holiday Sale

BY NANCY KUNICK
Staff Correspondent
MEADVILLE — Seventy-nine head of quality calves were in the

limelight at the "Irish Holiday Sale" hosted by the Crawford County Holstein Club, March 16, at the Crawford County fairgrounds.

The top-selling animal was Leadfield Marslinda-ET, consigned by Queens Manor/Leadfield of Jamestown. Born January 12, 1985, she is one of three full sisters sired by Marshfield Elevation Tona. The buyer, Tom Mikulice, care of Black Rose Holsteins of New Franken, Wis., will have a choice of the sisters after all freshen as two-year-olds. With these terms in mind, the bids were high, with Mikulice of Black Rose placing the top bid of \$77,000.00.

The pedigree behind Marslinda and her sisters is extremely impressive. Her dam is the well-known Leadfield Telstar Linda-ET, who is classified Ex92 with an outstanding record of 33,408 milk and 1375 fat as a 3-year-old. Linda has several maternal sisters classified excellent, and her dam is C Craig Petro Telstar 4EX96.

Several hundred Holstein breeders attended the sale, with buyers present from Wisconsin, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Indiana, as well as the surrounding states. The sale concluded with an average of \$3512.

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Leadfield Marslinda-ET brought an impressive \$77,000 at the Irish Holiday Calf Sale in Crawford County. Pictured are Nancy Mitrich, Crawford County Dairy Princess; Tom Mikulice of Black Rock Holsteins, buyer; Ed Doeberiner of Queens Manor/Leadfield, consignor; and leadperson Julie Custead. In the box are auctioneers Gail Carson, William Kent, and Sherman Allen.

INSIDE this issue

Ayrshire Breeders New egg markets

The Pa. Ayrshire Breeders gathered last week in Grantville for their annual spring meeting. At the top of the agenda were plans for the 1986 national Ayrshire convention, which will be hosted by the Pennsylvania breeders.

Other highlights of the state meeting included recognition of two junior finalists in national Ayrshire competition. Turn inside to page A22 for a complete report on the state Ayrshire meeting.

This issue of Lancaster Farming contains new information about egg markets that are of relevance to egg producers.

The regional information includes daily market averages for the New England states, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

You can find the expanded egg market information on page A4.



Evelyn Baez, a fourth grader in the Lancaster City School District, gingerly pets a Holstein on John Barley's dairy farm in Conestoga. Evelyn and her classmates visited area dairy farms this week as part of the "Ag in the Classroom" project. See page A20 for pictures of her friends and a short story about the farm tour.