Polled Hereford Assn.

picks top junior breeder

Birdsall wins at Empire Jr. Show

WEEDSPORT, NY - Junior Polled Hereford breeders not only competed in special classes at the recent Eighth Annual Empire Classic Show at the Cayuga County Fairgrounds but also took part successfully in the open show.

Twelve-year-old Brian Birdsall of Homer, NY, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rod Birdsall, "took on all comers" and was a close runner-up for the overall title of Premier Exhibitor at the Classic Show.

The Junior Grand Champion heifer was exhibited by Melinda Marshall of Port Byron and the

Junior Reserve Grand Champion heifer was exhibited by her younger brother Peter.

Scott Baker of Palmyra won the senior showmanship class and his brother Tommy won the junior showmanship class for those 14 years of age and under. Kerry Pasquale of Stillwater placed second in the junior class.

Carl McCullough, manager of Rosebank Angus Farm at Germantown, who judged the Classic Show cited all the juniors for their showmanship. He called Scott Baker, Holly Mitchell who placed

second in the senior class and Darrell Card who placed third, "outstanding young showmen." This class for those 15 to 18 years of age was highly competitive. Laura Thomson of Akron placed fourth; Stephen Card of McGraw, fifth; and Chris Adams of Ontario, sixth.

The overall championship title and trophy went to Scott Baker and Holly Mitchell of Skaneateles was named reserve champion.

Laura Thomson exhibited the first and second place steers in the steer competition.

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN - Top honors in the prestigious National Junior Merit Award competition were doled out to 19-year-old Brett Bacon of Buffalo, MO. Bacon was recognized at the awards ceremonies during the 12th Junior National Polled Hereford Show and Forum, July 21-26, here.

Honored as the nation's most outstanding junior Polled Hereford breeder, he is the son of Kenneth and Betty Bacon. Jon Espenscheid of Argyle, WI, claimed the runnerup slot. He is the 20-year-old son of Marvin and Ruth Espenscheid. Kurtis Jennings of Rogers, AR, the 21-year-old son of Eldon and Evelyn Jennings, earned the third place honors.

Bacon received a \$750 APHA Foundation scholarship plus a week-long trip to the Polled Hereford operation of his choice sponsored by Harding and Harding Livestock Insurance. Espenscheid won a \$500 scholarship while Jennings was awarded \$250. Recognition the three received was based on each applicants' outstanding achievements in the beef cattle industry, citizenship activities and personal development. Each candidate for the national award was first named a winner in his or her home state.

Bacon purchased his first Polled Herefords in 1978 and has worked to improve his herd through the past several years. He will enter his second year at the University of Missouri-Columbia this fall majoring in animal science. He hopes to attend veterinary school upon graduation.

Active in 4-H and FFA along with the Missouri Junior Polled Hereford Association, Bacon has served in all levels of leadership. He was president of the Missouri Junior PHA during 1983-84. He graduated valedictorian of his high school class and was honored on the dean's list last year at the University of Missouri.

Strict culling and attention to herd health help Bacon assure the quality of his cattle and have led to a five-fold increase in his herd's value since its beginning. The use of artificial insemination and performance data has aided Bacon in improving his herd and has helped in the eventual marketing of his product.

As a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Espenscheid plans a career in the agriculture communications or teaching fields. He has been active in the Wisconsin Junior Polled Hereford Association for 10 years and holds a number of distinctions in 4-H and FFA from the local to national levels. Espenscheid received a Polled Hereford heifer from his parents in 1974 for his start in the cattle business. Since then he has increased the value of his herd greatly and learned the important elements to guarantee the success of his cattle herd. Last year, he achieved an 85 percent conception rate on his A.I. cows and has increased frame size and quality of his cattle through the use of A.I. Weighing and measuring all young stock monthly has allowed Espenscheid to see the areas in

which his cattle need improvement

and to plan accordingly.

Jennings has a goal of owning and operating his own Polled Hereford ranch. Experience through 4-H, FFA and the Arkansas Junior Polled Hereford Association have put him in many leadership positions. He will be a senior this fall at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, majoring in animal science and business. Jennings received his first Polled Hereford heifer as a gift on his eighth birthday and has steadily increased his farm value over the past 11 years. Factors helping Jennings improve his herd range from herd health programs and pasture management to using A.I. and performance data. He has organized many judging workshops and contests in his county and the last two years has organized a junior stock show in Rogers. He is a director on the National Junior Polled Hereford Council representing Arkansas,



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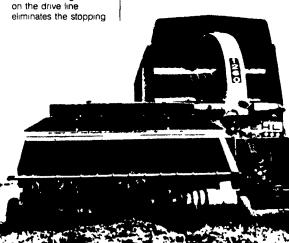
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