

# Junior exhibitor wins KILE carcass show

HARRISBURG — Kristen and Scott Hazlett, of State College, won top honors in the swine division of the 1985 Keystone International Livestock Exposition held at the

Harrisburg Farm Show Complex November 8-13. Both exhibited market hogs in the junior show held during the week long event. Kristen, 11, won junior cham-

pion-on-foot with her barrow, a Hampshire-Spotted cross. Her barrow had a live weight of 212 pounds. Scott, 15, won overall grand champion carcass with his Duroc-Spotted crossbred barrow. The barrow weighed 249 pounds live, 188 pounds butchered and prepared for sale, and had superior carcass characteristics. This was the first time the grand champion carcass was shown by a junior exhibitor.

Kristen and Scott bought the barrows from Keith Bard, who operates a swine farm near Lewistown. They raised them as a 4-H project. After they were judged on foot the hogs were processed at the Hatfield Packing Company, Hatfield. The carcasses were then entered in the carcass division for Specific Show Characteristics.

The Exposition, in its 29th year, holds competitions for several breeds of beef cattle, swine, sheep and draft horses. Dr. John Ziegler, professor of meat science at The Pennsylvania State University, is the superintendent of both the open and junior carcass barrow shows. Entries are open to 4-H and FFA members and livestock breeders and owners. The Exposition is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Livestock Association.

Kristen attends the Lemont Elementary School and Scott is a sophomore at the State College Area Intermediate High School. They are the children of Vernon and Jean Hazlett. Vernon is the swine herdsman at the Penn State Swine Center.



Following his sister Kristen's lead, Scott Hazlett topped KILE's carcass contest. (Penn State Ag Communications photos.)



Kristen Hazlett's KILE on-foot champion market hog.

## Pa. Cattlemen schedule conference

UNIVERSITY PARK — Surviving in the cattle business, improving pasture management for greater productivity, handling cattle facilities and using microcomputers in beef operations are among the topics to be presented at the 1986 Pennsylvania Beef Cattle Conference, held Feb. 21-23 at the Allenberry Resort, Boiling Springs. The annual event is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association, The Pennsylvania State University, Pennsylvania Beef Council and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Guest speakers will include Jo Ann Smith, president of the National Cattlemen's Association; Henry Gardiner, president of the Beef Improvement Federation; Bruce Bainbridge, cattle marketing specialist from Virginia Polytechnic Institute; Jeanne Sowa, promotions manager for the Beef Industry Council, National Livestock and Meat Board; and

Jerry Palen, noted bronze sculptor and author of "Stampede" cartoons.

Several specialists from Penn State will discuss new management procedures for both the purebred and commercial cow/calf operator and the cattle feeder or grower. During a hands-on session, participants can explore the uses of microcomputers in beef operations.

Jerry Palen will be the guest speaker at the Cattlemen's Banquet on Friday evening, and Jo Ann Smith will speak at the Saturday luncheon.

Cattle producers and other interested individuals may register for the entire conference or for separate sessions, meals and lodging. For more information and a registration packet, write to the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association, 862 Webster Drive, State College, PA 16801, or to the Department of Dairy and Animal Science, The Pennsylvania State



Jo Ann Smith

University, 324 Henning Building, University Park, PA 16802.

## National, state Cattlemen offer joint membership

Through a special membership drive by the National Cattlemen's Association and the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association, the dues structure for the National membership has been reduced. Members of the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association can become full members of the National Cattlemen's Association and receive NCA's magazine for a

flat rate of \$20, or weekly newsletters and the magazine for \$50.

The Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association co-sponsors many of the important beef cattle industry events and programs in Pennsylvania, as well as helping to promote beef to the consumer.

The National Cattlemen's

Association is primarily active in promotion of legislative actions by the federal government on issues that affect the beef cattle industry.

More information with regard to membership in either the Pennsylvania or National Cattlemen's Associations can be obtained from: Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association, 862 Webster Drive, State College, PA 16801.

## Beef Briefs

by Dr. Lester Burdette

Penn State Extension Beef Specialist



## Are Junior Livestock Shows Worth It?

**Editor's Note:** Livestock Latest readers may notice that Forest Muir's poultry column, which normally appears on the second Saturday of the month, was published last week. In his place this week is Les Burdette, who normally appears on the first Saturday. Apologies from the Livestock Editor who was asleep at the switch.

The title is a question we are often asked and sometimes even ask ourselves. With the Farm Show upon us it seems to be a good time to address the issue. The boy or girl who shows the champion steer, lamb, or pig would certainly say yes. And so would the parents and grandparents.

We do seem to hear increasing criticism about some of the junior shows. Comments such as, "What's wrong with the judge, why did he pick that animal, it doesn't represent what I topped the market with last week?" "It's not fair, his (her), parents do all the work." "It's getting to be a game for the rich because I heard his father paid \$XXX for it as a feeder" Or, "What does he learn that will make him a better farmer?"

There is a grain of truth to some of these comments. When we pick a judge all we ask for is his opinion and that is just what we get. Everyone is free to disagree but for that day there is only one official opinion and that is the one the money is paid on.

Yes, sometimes with another judge, or even the same judge on a different day, another animal would be champion. Judging is not glory, it is hard work. People who do judge do a lot less criticizing than non-judges.

Just as with Little League or other activities, some parents do get carried away and seem to want to relive their own childhood. On

the other hand, the families where the parents take an active interest and offer lots of encouragement seem to be the ones where the children get the most benefits from youth programs.

Studies show that only five to 10 percent of the boys or girls will end up with careers in agriculture, so we don't try to emphasize productive agriculture in many of the club activities. They may not all end up as farmers but they will all be consumers. I don't think we will get negative reactions about agriculture from this group of future consumers.

Most of the real benefits of club work come from group activities back on the local level. They learn about parliamentary procedure, forming committees, working together, standing up to give reports, or serving as officers in clubs. Hopefully they learn about winning and losing because life is all about competition. They learn to live with rules and regulations. We all know the consequences of exceeding the speed limit.

Sometimes when the carrot at the end—or in this case the price of the champion—is too large we do get some people who go to excessive lengths to win it. Nevertheless, we do believe that junior livestock shows are worth it. Maybe the problem is the name. Maybe we should call them kid shows, after all, most people go to watch kids. They just have to have an animal to get into the ring to compete.

If you go to the Farm Show to watch one of these kid shows observe how much fun they seem to have and how clean and wholesome this group of boys and girls are. We should be proud of what they are doing and offer constructive comments rather than sour grapes criticism.

# LIVESTOCK LATEST

