

Lebanon 4-H Livestock Club honors outstanding members

BY JACK HUBLEY
SHAEFFERSTOWN — Although Lebanon County's Outstanding Rookie 4-H'er doesn't come from a farm, he's certainly off to a running start in the livestock business. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kleinfelter of Myerstown, Michael Kleinfelter received the 4-H Livestock Club's top first-year member award at the club's annual recognition banquet held at the Shaefferstown Fire Hall on Feb. 25.

Nine-year-old Kleinfelter has completed swine and beef projects, and has shown livestock at the Lebanon County Fair, winter roundup, Farm Show and the Keystone International Livestock Expo. He is also a member of the county livestock judging team.

Michael is actually the youngest third of a trio of brothers who raise livestock on the family's two-acre farmette. Along with his brothers Jay, 13, and Donald, 11, Michael raises four steers, two sows and a beef cow that calved for the first time last May. Brother Don was voted Outstanding Rookie last year.

Each year the Lebanon club selects outstanding members for rookie, junior and senior honors,

and Lebanon's Brian Kreider went home with this year's Outstanding Junior Member award. The son of Carol and Richard Kreider, Brian was a member of the high scoring team in livestock judging at the state level.

Although his family raises beef cattle, Brian prefers showing pigs, "because they're easier to fit," he says. His enthusiasm for showing swine is obvious. At the age of 11, Brian has already shown two Lebanon County champion market hogs: the first time, in 1983, and again last year.

Unlike Brian Kreider, Kelly Heisey, the club's Outstanding Senior Member, enjoys fitting show cattle.

Her parents, Mark and Lois Heisey, run a dairy operation near Lebanon, but Kelly was never very enthusiastic about showing dairy cattle. "I like to fit steers," she says. "It's a lot of work, but you can do so much more with them."

Although she doesn't plan to pursue a career in agriculture, Heisey has nothing but praise for the 4-H program, citing leadership experience and friendships as two of the program's benefits.

Active in numerous leadership roles, Kelly currently serves as the

4-H club's vice president, as well as secretary for the Lebanon Area Fair.

According to Lebanon Extension agent, Ken Winebark, more than 92 firms supported the 4-H club at the county fair, winter roundup and junior livestock sale at Farm Show. Winebark expects the club's enrollment to increase from its present 52 members to more than 60 for the coming year's program. Following are a list of members honored for their achievements during the past show season:

Beef Awards

Lebanon Area Fair: Grand Champion Steer, Jeff Bomgardner; Reserve Champion Steer, Kelly Heisey; Champion Showman, Jeff Bomgardner; Reserve Champion Showman, Rodney Bomgardner; Champion Fitter, Leigh Hitz; and Reserve Champion Fitter, Kelly Heisey.

Winter Roundup: Grand Champion Steer, Daryl Bomgardner; Reserve Champion Steer, Shelby Heagy; Champion Showman, Daryl Bomgardner; and Champion Fitter, Shelby Heagy.

Farm Show: Heather Heisey, Leigh Hitz, and Rodney Bomgardner.

Swine Awards

Lebanon Area Fair: Grand Champion Hog, Brian Kreider; Reserve Champion Hog, Michael Kleinfelter; Champion Showman, Darren Grumbine; Reserve Champion Showman, Brian Kreider; Champion Fitter, Jennifer Arnold; and Reserve Champion Fitter, Amy Bachman.

Winter Roundup: Grand Champion Hog, Shelby Heagy; Reserve Champion Hog, Danny Atkins; Champion Showman, Jeff Bomgardner, and Champion Fitter, Daryl Grumbine.

Farm Show: Jennifer Arnold, Michael Kleinfelter, Donald Kleinfelter, Jason Krall, John Risser, Shelby Heagy, Jeffrey Bomgardner, Daryl Bomgardner, Daryl Grumbine, and Darren Grumbine

Sheep Awards

Lebanon Area Fair: Grand Champion Market Lamb, Daryl Grumbine; Reserve Champion Market Lamb, Darren Grumbine; Champion Ewe, Melanie Bow; Champion Ram, Melanie Bow; Champion Showman, Heather Emrich; Reserve Champion Showman, Melanie Bow; Champion Fitter, Melanie Bow; and Reserve Champion Fitter, Daryl Grumbine.

Farm Show: Melanie Bow.

Pen Decorating Contest

Swine - Amy & Eric Harnish, first; Amy, Michelle & Kelly Weaver, second.

Sheep - Heather Emrich, first; Melanie Bow, second.

Beef - Kelly & Heather Heisey, first; Leigh Hitz, second.




Outstanding Lebanon 4-H members recognized were (left) Michael Kleinfelter, Rookie; Brian Kreider, Junior Member; and Kelly Heisey, Senior Member.

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