

Abundant, High-Quality Horticulture Entries Expected At York Fair

BY JOYCE BUYP

York Co. Correspondent

YORK — While summer's hot, dry growing season may have hastened ripening dates on locally produced fruits and vegetables, the lingering drought conditions have failed to wilt the enthusiasm of area growers who exhibit at the

York Fair.

Don Lanius, manager of the York Fair's horticulture department, anticipates the usual abundant and high-quality entries that annually turn the cavernous Horticulture hall into an overflowing cornucopia of harvest. The York Fair runs this year from

Friday, Sept. 5, through Saturday, Sept. 13.

Among the perpetual crowd favorites are the "giant" classes, including awards for the largest pumpkin, watermelon, squash, and cabbage, and the heaviest potato.

Veteran York Fair produce exhibitor Carl Harding, of S.K. Harding and Son Orchard, is already casting a critical eye on every variety of produce coming in from the 40 acres of vegetable crops and fruit trees.

The Hardings have exhibited produce at the fair for 40 years, ever since Carl's father, S.K. Harding, pioneered the family's orchard business at Red Lion R2. As last year's York Fair drew to a close, the Red Lion retail marketers collected a total of 26 ribbons for entries representing

the orchard's diverse commodities.

Selecting the entries is a time consuming process, requiring plenty of discerning picking and discarding, in search of the most perfect specimens of each variety.

"It takes about a day to pick, and then another day to make the selections. What we look for are the nicest, most uniform specimens, not necessarily the largest, but as much the same size as possible," explains Norman Jean Harding.

"We look forward to the fair every year," she says, adding with a chuckle, "But it's a lot of work."

The Hardings generally evert several varieties of apples and pears, plums, late peaches, squash, Indian corn, and, their specialty, pumpkins. While each year brings new hopes, their 24-

pound pumpkin that dazzled the judges and claimed the first-place honors in 1967 still remains one of their most memorable entries.

One of Harding's possibilities for this year looks like a pumpkin — but isn't. A "freakish" zucchini turned up recently in the squash patch, ripening to a pumpkin-orange color, and measuring in at about 18 inches long and a diameter of about 8 inches.

Horticulture entries at the York Fair are open to all growers, both commercial and home gardeners. Entries must be made at Horticulture Hall at the following times: Tuesday, Sept. 2, and Wednesday, Sept. 3, from 1 to 9 p.m., and Thursday, Sept. 4, 9 a.m. through 6 p.m.

For additional information, contact the York Inter-State Fair office, 334 Carlisle Avenue, York 17404, or call 717-848-2596.



An unusual, giant orange zucchini, displayed by Norma Jean Harding, heads up the list of vegetable and fruit entries from the S. K. Harding Orchard to the York Fair.

Pierce Wins State Horse Judging Contest

LEBANON — Sheri Pierce, Newmanstown, was named high individual in the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest held recently at State 4-H Achievement Days at Penn State University.

In the horse judging contest, 4-H'ers judge horses based on both performance and conformation. The 4-H'er then explains her judgement through oral reasons to contest officials.

Thirty-two teams participated in the state contest. Sheri and fellow team members, Stacey Horney and Jennifer Daullary, earned a

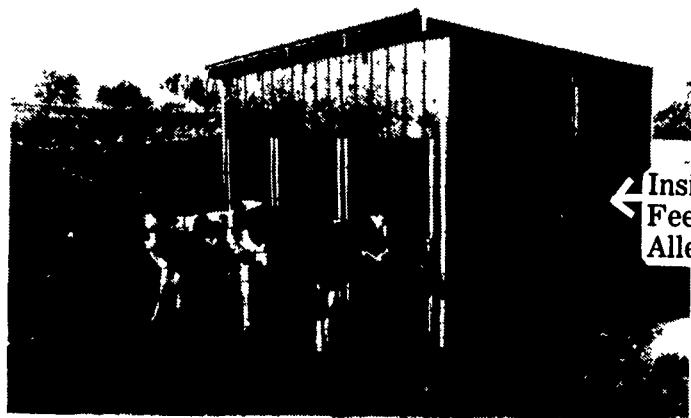
sixth place team rank. The Lebanon County horse judging team is coached by 4-H leader, Charity Vragovich.

Active in the 4-H horse program for the past 12 years, Sheri is currently president of the Equestrians 4-H Club and a past president of the Lebanon County Teen Council. Sheri will be participating during October in five classes at the State 4-H Performance Horse Show with her horse, Dude's Rusty Que, and the State Production Horse Show with her weanling colt.



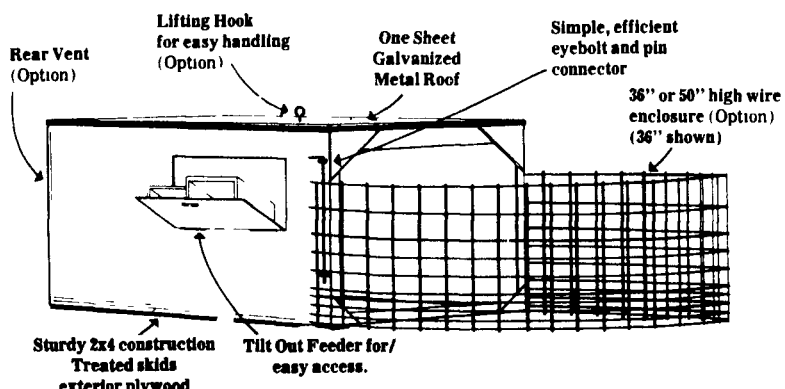
Sheri Pierce

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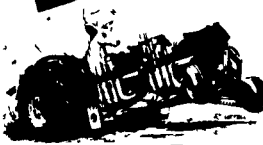
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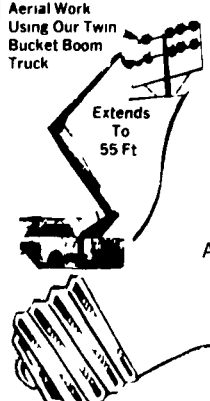
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