

York 4-H'ers Place 3rd In National Livestock Judging

YORK — The York County 4-H Livestock Team represented Pennsylvania in the National 4-H Livestock Contest in Louisville, Ky. at the North American Livestock Exposition, Nov. 16-20.

The team placed third in the contest with 34 other state teams. The team had 2017 points out of 2250 points. Illinois won the contest with 2063 and Iowa was second with 2032.

Tim Ferrence, son of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Ferrence, Spring Grove, was 10th in the overall contest with 134 contestants, with a score of 678 out of 750 points. Krista Rankin, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. William Rankin, Abbottstown, was 22 with a score of 666.

The team was third in Oral Reasons with a score of 626. Krista Rankin was 10th in Oral Reasons with a score of 215 out of a possible 250 points and Tim Ferrence was 16th with a score of 206. John Eaton, Jr., son of Mr. & Mrs. John Eaton Sr., Windsor, was 20th, and Melissa Trostle, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Trostle, Red Lion,

was 42nd.

The team was 6th in Beef Cattle Judging with 946 points out of 1050 points. John Eaton was 12th in judging beef with a score of 322 out of 350 and Tim Ferrence was 17 with a score of 320. The team placed second in Swine Judging with a score of 676. Krista Rankin was fifth in Judging Swine with a score of 230. Tim Ferrence was 18th with a score of 224 and John Eaton was 23 with a score of 222 and Melissa Trostle was 40th with a score of 217. The team placed 10th in Sheep Judging with a score of 395 out of 450 points. Tim Ferrence was 39 in Sheep Judging with a score of 134 out of 150 points and Krista Rankin was 42nd with a score of 132. William Holloway, Brenda Walter, and Tony Dobrosky, accompanied the team.

In 1961, the York team became the first Pennsylvania team ever to win the national contest, an accomplishment that has not been duplicated. York also placed third in the contest in 1978.



York County's winning livestock judging team includes (from left) coach William Holloway; Tim Ferrence; John Eaton, Jr.; Melissa Trostle; Krista Rankin; Brenda Walter, coach.

Beef Briefs

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The Replacement Heifer

Normally, in most beef herds, about 30 percent of the heifer calves are retained as replacement females, unless there is a more immediate need for cash flow or a reason to increase cow numbers. Open heifers, especially in purebred herds, are often easier to sell than cows and can be a quick source of cash receipts. On the other hand, your freshest genetics should be available in your heifer calf crop and often retaining more than 30 percent can lead to greater profits at a later date.

None the less, selection of replacement females should be on the basis of performance records. Weaning and yearling weights should be recorded and ratios used to aid in the selection process. An old rule of thumb was to retain the oldest and largest frame heifers in the herd, as they would eventually be the females that could be bred earlier in the breeding season; thus keeping them in step with the rest of the herd. Today, with the many tools available for livestock selection, a producer can now be more scientific in his selection process. By the use of EBV's (estimated breeding values) for birth, weaning, yearling and maternal traits and sire summary data, a cattle breeder can be more critical and selective with regard to the heifers he keeps as

replacements.

Research has shown that early overconditioning in heifer calves is detrimental to their future reproductivity. For this reason it is suggested that replacements not be creep fed and that they be fed only enough energy after weaning to promote growth and development. Desired gains after weaning depend largely on inherent growth potential. For instance 1.0 to 1.50 pounds per day might be realistic gains for average British breed cattle. Gains of 1.50 to 2.0 pounds per day are more likely with Continental breeds and larger framed British type heifers.

A cattleman's goal should allow that heifers reach puberty at 14 to 16 months of age, weigh 700 to 850 pounds at breeding and weigh 950 to 1100 pounds at first calving. After breeding, the heifers should continue to gain at the rate of 1.0 to 1.25 pounds by winter feeding time. A gain of 1 pound per day from December to April will bring heifers to over 1000 pounds at calving. This should allow calving without difficulty and prevent overconditioning. In any case, good judgement must be used and energy intake adjusted according to the heifer's condition.

A table outlining nutrient requirements for large frame heifer calves is shown below.

Nutrient Requirements for Large Frame Heifer Calves*

Body Wt. (lbs)	Avg. Daily Gain (lbs)	Dry Matter Intake (lbs)	Protein Intake (lbs)	TDN %	GA %	Ph %
500	1.0	12.4	1.16	59.0	.30	.20
	1.5	12.9	1.32	64.0	.38	.20
	2.0	13.1	1.46	69.5	.44	.24
600	1.0	14.1	1.25	59.0	.28	.19
	1.5	14.8	1.41	64.0	.33	.19
	2.0	15.0	1.54	69.5	.38	.22
700	1.0	15.9	1.34	59.0	.25	.18
	1.5	16.6	1.49	64.0	.29	.19
	2.0	16.8	1.61	69.5	.33	.20

* Adapted from Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle, Sixth revised edition, 1984, National Academy Press, Washington, DC.

These nutrients can be supplied by a variety of feedstuffs. Some simple rations might be 30 pounds of corn silage and 1.5 pounds of complete protein supplement, or 10

pounds of mixed hay and possibly phosphorus supplementation. It still takes a cattleman's trained eye to keep a watch on an animal's proper development.

Chester 4-H Member Ends Career With Win

WEST CHESTER — Ken Walker of West Chester continued his winning ways this year with his bred-and-owned steer being named grand champion at the 1986 Chester County 4-H Beef Show held on Friday, Nov. 14 at Crebilly Farm in West Chester.

This was Ken's last year in 4-H and he ended it the way he ended many years by walking away with grand champion honors. Ken was also named senior champion showman as he had done on many years past. Ken is a freshman at the Berks County Penn State Campus majoring in Annual Production and hopes to obtain a job in the agricultural field upon graduation.

Reserve champion steer was shown by John Crossan of Unionville. Champion Angus heifer was shown by Erica McClellan and reserve champion Angus heifer was shown by her brother Matt McClellan, both of Unionville.

Ryan Rohrer of Nottingham was named champion junior showman, and champion first year showman went to Joyce Reese of Coatesville. The following are the results of the show.

Lightweight Steers

1. Matt Howe, Downingtown; 2. Anita Howe, Downingtown; 3. Lane Lineberger, Downingtown.

Mediumweight Steers

1. John Crossan, Unionville; 2. Rob Rohrer, Nottingham; 3. Mike Crossan, Unionville.

Light Heavyweight

1. Tiffany Rohrer, Nottingham; 2. Joyce Reese, Coatesville; 3. Walter Russell, Downingtown.

Heavyweight

1. Ken Walker, West Chester; 2. Ryan Rohrer, Nottingham; 3. Joe Horton, Downingtown.

November Angus Heifers

1. Matt McClellan, Unionville.

May Angus Heifers

1. Erica McClellan, Unionville.

January Angus Heifers

1. Chris Jordon, Unionville.

LIVESTOCK LATEST



Lyng Announces Disaster Payment Provisions

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng recently announced preliminary provisions for administering the 1986 disaster payment program.

The program provides for payments to producers in disaster-affected counties to compensate them for 1986 crop losses. A complete list of eligible non-program crops and the application date for disaster payments will be announced when final regulations are published.

Secretary Lyng listed the following program provisions:

- Eligible counties are those in which Farmers Home Administration emergency loans are available for losses of 1986 crops caused by drought, excessive heat, excessive moisture, flood or hail.

- Producers requesting disaster program assistance will be required to furnish acreage and production reports on forms provided by their county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office.

The county Agricultural Stabilization Committee will use the reports to determine whether the producer has sustained a loss of production that will qualify for compensation. The producer must also provide, when available, evidence of their actual yield for 1983, 1984 and 1985 for all crops except wheat, feed grains, upland cotton, peanuts and certain kinds of tobacco.

- In the case of wheat, feed grains, upland cotton and rice, only producers on farms which participated in the 1986 production adjustment program for the crops

are eligible. For nonprogram crops, eligible producers are those who suffered losses as the result of natural disasters that create economic emergency for the producer.

- Applications for payments will be accepted at a date to be announced.

- Payments will be made in generic commodity certificates.

- In general, payments to eligible producers for a crop will be computed by multiplying 50 percent of the disaster payment yield for the crop times the eligible acreage, subtracting the 1986 actual production, and multiplying by the payment rate. The payment rate will be the county loan rate for the crop or an average market

price for crops without a loan rate. - Payments to a person will be limited to \$100,000 for program crops and \$100,000 for nonprogram crops.

Secretary Lyng asked producers to organize their production data for 1986 and previous crops so that they will have the necessary information available when the county ASCS offices begin accepting payment applications. Payments will be made when eligibility determinations have been completed.

ASCS county offices will provide producers further program details and will notify them when to submit loss of production evidence and payment applications.

Forage Council To Meet Dec. 9

NEWARK, Del. — Voisin, a pasture management system practiced in Vermont and New York, will be among the topics discussed at the Maryland-Delaware Forage Council's winter forage meeting Dec. 9 at the Caroline 4-H and Youth Center in Denton, Md.

University of Vermont agronomist Bill Murphy will discuss how voisin grazing management can save a farmer up to \$98 per cow in feeding costs from May to October. Voisin management is a simple system of dividing pastures into small paddocks. The paddocks are grazed in rotation to ration out the forage and allow plants time to replenish themselves. This system

has been practiced for about 15 years in New Zealand and for about five years in Vermont and New York.

Other topics to be covered during the day-long meeting include small grains suitable for forage, weed control in alfalfa, hay marketing, and forage species for the peninsula. The meeting will conclude with a group discussion on alfalfa and silage production, forage-related animal health problems, and pasture species and management.

The forage meeting is sponsored jointly by the Maryland and Delaware extension systems and by area agribusinesses. It is open to the public.