

Lancaster Youths Cop Junior Market Swine Championships

HARRISBURG — As a result of Thursday's hog show Karen Becker will be smiling a little brighter in the future. "Dad promised that if my pig got grand champion I could get braces," Karen said, adding that he when he made the promise he was "kinda joking because he never thought I'd win."

It was no joke when judge Gene Isler, Columbus, Ohio, pronounced Karen's Yorkshire-Hampshire cross grand champion of the junior market swine show held in the small arena of the Farm Show building.

"We have to keep the swine shows practical and raise what the market is looking for," Isler said. Weighing in at 224 pounds, the middleweight impressed Isler with its wide, thick, square body. "The champion glides around the ring as well as any pig and shows a tremendous amount of muscling."

Karen, the 12-year-old daughter of Marlin and Nancy Becker, Manheim, showed at the Farm Show two years ago where she earned an 11th place finish. "All I wanted this year was eighth place so I could sell it separately. When he said I got it I couldn't believe it," Karen said. I'm still in shock, she noted after returning her

barrow to the barn.

The Pen-Elm 4-H club member promptly changed the name of her pig following the show from Alexander to Alexander the Great, for obvious reasons.

Mike Mellott, Peach Bottom, was equally surprised with his success in the showing. The Lancaster County youth captured the reserve grand champion title with a Duroc-Hampshire-Spot cross. "This is the first big show I've ever done well with pigs in," he said.

A member of the Solanco FFA, Mellott conditioned his FFA project by walking it in its pen. At 4 months the pig weighs in at 234 pounds. Mellott was able to achieve this weight gain by feeding his pig cow's milk. His father, Robert, drives a milk truck and brings home out-of-date milk for pig feed, Mellott explained.

Showing in his second consecutive year at the Farm Show, Mellott considered what the judge would be looking for when he selected his hog. "I was looking for a thick and meaty hog and this cross caught my eye," Mellott said.

Isler described the reserve champion as following right along with his grand champion by



Karen Becker of Lancaster County captured the grand championship of the junior market swine show with her Yorkshire-Hampshire crossbred barrow.

exhibiting big volume, capacity and muscling.

While he enjoys raising pigs,

following graduation in June Mellott plans to enter into the dairy business with Bob Kauffman.

The following are the results of the junior market swine and showmanship contests.

Class 1
1 Bonnie Dietrick 2 Terry Nolt 3 Jenny Rabenoid

Class 2
1 Floyd Huber, 2 Adrienne Elkin 3 Kris Miller

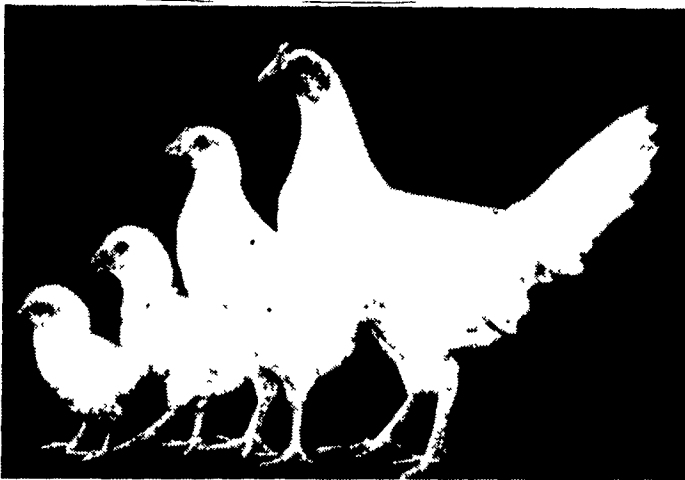
Class 3
1 Donald Kleinfeiler, 2 Jay Kleinfeiler 3 Kenianne Rarick

Champion Lightweight
Donald Kleinfeiler
Reserve Champion Lightweight
Bonnie Dietrick

Class 4
1 Darrin Grumbine 2 Steve Rohrbach 3 Rodney Bomgardner

(Turn to Page A25)

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Mike Mellott also of Lancaster County earned the reserve grand champion title of the junior market swine show.

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