

Homebred Limousin Is Top Steer At Bedford

BEDFORD — In her show ring debut, eight-year-old Ladonna Miller of Bedford outdistanced 77 competitors to emerge with the grand champion market steer at the Bedford County Fair here last week.

Her 1125-lb. homebred Limousin first topped the heavy middleweight class, nudged out two other class winners for the middleweight championship and finally captured the show's finest trophy.

Jay Espenshade, Fayette County agent, in evaluating the contest, said of Miller's steer: "He's well fit, carrying a lot of meat, with uniform width over his top to a well finished rump and into a thick quarter."

Espenshade consistently selected Limousin and Limousin-cross entries, noting, "I really like these red calves, not because they're red but because they're the meatiest calves....They're not the prettiest steers here, but this isn't a beauty contest; it's a red meat contest."

For his reserve grand champion, Espenshade gave his nod to Donald Lafferty of Manns Choice, showing an 1163-lb. light heavyweight class winner that doubled as champion heavyweight. The 15-year-old cattleman last year had ranked last in his class and contributed his change in fortune to switching breeds. The judge commented of Lafferty's entry: "He's straight lined, a meaty kind of calf, a proud individual, smooth in his finish, carrying into a good quarter."

Matthew Knee of Bakers Summit exhibited the champion light-weight steer, a red crossbred, "real modern, straight, thick quartered," a 998-lb. entry.

Knee's calf also was selected county-bred champion, having been purchased from Shoemaker Simmentals of Buffalo Mills.

The Miller family enhanced its day as Ladonna's brother, Kevin, gathered the reserve champion lightweight rosette for his 1036-lb. entry and the reserve champion heavyweight for an 1177-lb. calf. The latter calf stood second in class to Lafferty's big winner. Kevin also picked up both grand and reserve grand championships in the homebred show for the same calf duo.

Troy Brown of Bedford gained the steer show's remaining purple as he marched his second place lightweight, a 938-lb. entry, to reserve grand champion in the county bred event. He purchased it from Clay Acres, the Miller family farm.

Junior market steer class placings.

Light lightweight-- 1. Jim Sphon, 2. Clifford Sphon, 3. Julie Claycomb.

Medium lightweight-- 1. Knee, 2. Lafferty, 3. Brian Miller.

Heavy lightweight-- 1. Kevin Miller, 2. Dennis Hillegass, 3. Nathan Brown of Bedford.

Light middleweight-- 1. Claycomb, 2. Brown, 3. Christine Leader.

Medium middleweight-- 1. Brian Jay, 2. Brian Miller, 3. Cathy



Brian Miller (left) helps his sister, Ladonna, handle her grand champion market steer at the Bedford County Fair. The 1125-lb. Limousin was a homebred steer. Donald Lafferty exhibited the reserve grand champion, a 1173-lb. heavyweight bred by Jim Fisher.

Furlong.

Heavy middleweight-- 1. Ladonna Miller, 2. Becky Dodson, 3. David Mock.

Light heavyweight-- 1. Lafferty, 2. Kevin Miller, 3. Chris Leach.

Middle heavyweight-- 1. Christopher Cogan, 2. Christy Furlong.

Heavy heavyweight-- 1. Jay, 2. Bill Miller, 3. Jim Fisher.

Home Bred

Lightweight-- 1. Brian Miller, 2. Clifford Sphon, 3. Julie Claycomb.

Middleweight-- 1. Kevin Miller, 2. Brian Miller, 3. Bob Ritchey.

Heavyweight-- 1. Kevin Miller, 2. Steve Winegardner, 3. Gwen

Gray.

County Bred

Lightweight-- 1. Knee, 2. Brown, 3. Lafferty.

Middleweight-- 1. Leader, 2. Mock.

Heavyweight-- 1. Miller, 2. Dodson, 3. Leach.

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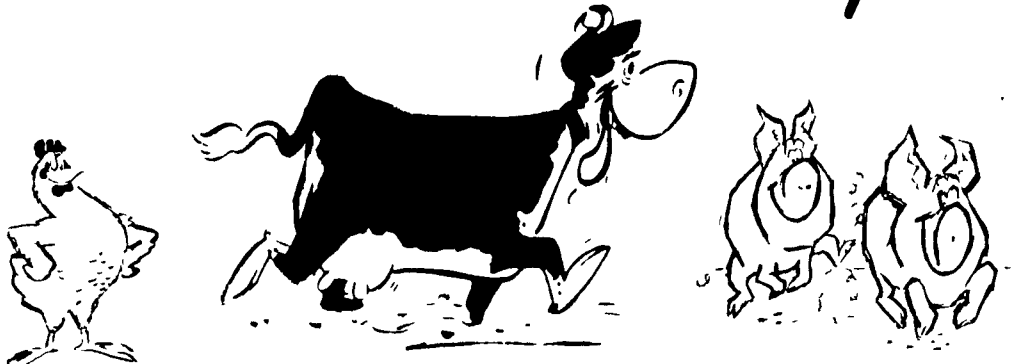
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