

Competition Heats Up At Berks 4-H Round-Up

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READING, (Berks Co.) — The favorite topic of conversation at the Berks Co. 4-H Dairy Round Up Monday and Tuesday was the heat. Temperatures climbed into the humid 90's early both days making showmen reluctant to don their whites any sooner than necessary and quick to remove them when their share of the event was through. Cattle too were stressed, not only by heat and humidity but also the Reading Fairgrounds chlorinated water which didn't suit some of the more discriminating animals.

Conditions were tough for exhibitors and cattle alike giving parents and leaders a good reason to keep close track of the action on the ring. Happily no intervention was necessary and exhibitors were able to manage their well-mannered if slightly balky animals in the sweltering ring. It spoke well of the advance preparation and loving care that showmen had given their cattle.

It made Lisa Francisco's job a good deal more difficult. Francisco had the unenviable task of choosing between excellent showmen and outstanding fitters. A graduate of Penn State and former New Jersey Dairy Princess, Francisco took plenty of time picking her winners and in several of the age categories stated that there was only a hair's breath of a difference between the first and second place entries. In the 16 and over showmanship class, exhibitors were not only required to lead their own animals but twice had to switch with other showman. On this basis Francisco selected Scott Youse as the top senior showman. "To be a good showman you also have to be a good judge. I picked out an animal with an obvious problem to correct and gave several showman an opportunity to make her look her best. Only the first place exhibitor did so." Francisco said explaining Scott's placing.

Francisco stuck with Scott as her grand champion followed closely by Duane Stump, the second place 16 & over showman as the reserve. However she also recognized the fine ring work of Erica Davis and Lynette Heffner, the first and second place entries in the 8 and 9-year-old class. Speaking of Erica, she stated "When that young lady entered the ring with that large cow I was sure there was going to be trouble. However within two minutes she had the animal behaving like a lady. Both of these girls are to be commended. If they continue at the rate they are going they will be super showmen."



Tammy Eptings (right) took home junior champion honors at her first time in the show ring. Laura Phillips (left) had the reserve junior champion.



Randy Balthaser's (right) 4-year-old, Heidi, squeaked by brother Jason's animal, Frosty, to receive the grand championship of the Brown Swiss show in Berks County. Frosty was also named best bred and owned.

For the first time, fitters 14 and over were required to fit their animals totally on their own. Randy Balthaser, an avid showman, in the 14 and 15-year age group won a fitting competition for the first time, with a "super clip job" on a Brown Swiss. Heidi Schlegel took the 16 and over honors closely followed by Scott Youse. But when it came to the grand championship, Francisco was instructed to judge heavily on the one thing everyone could be responsible for... cleanliness. And when it was all said and done two younger members, Leslie Nirschl and Lynette Heffner, walked away with the honors. Both Leslie and Lynette stated they had cleaned their own animals. Leslie's dad added that Leslie also clipped much of the animal herself getting a little help around the head.

In the type competition Berks 4-H'ers evidently prefer black and white with 77 of the 116 entries being Holsteins. While there were a number of fine animals in the ring, Terry Raun, the type judge, narrowed his selection to two animals that have spent lots of time in



Scott Youse (right) distinguished himself as the top showman at the Berks County 4-H Dairy Round-up followed by Duane Stump. Junior members Erica Davis (center) and Lynette Heffner (left) picked up blue ribbons in showmanship also.

the winner's circle, Daview Pete Ginger, owned by Jeffrey Davis and Linden-Loch Sexation Rena-Twin owned by Scott Youse. Ginger, a three year old out of Straight Pine Elevation Pete had a definite advantage over Rena, an aged cow who happened to be dry for this competition. Still choosing between Ginger, a junior champion at the all American 2 years ago and Rena, a youth division champion at a number of local events, couldn't have been easy. Raun went with Ginger based on her udder condition but conceded he might have switched the pair if Rena had been in milk. There is definitely an interesting confrontation shaping up between Ginger and Rena, an Ocean View Sexation daughter, but spectators will have to wait at least one more show season as Rena isn't due to freshen until Nov. Davis also received the Outstanding Breeder award with his grand champion entry.

For Holstein Junior Champions Raun went with two clean cut angular animals, senior calf, Oakenbound- W Beauty Blanch E.T., owned by Jeremy Troutman and reserve, an intermediate yearling, Ro-Ru Melvin Noel, owned

by Stacey Geist.

In Brown Swiss competition the Balthaser brothers, Randy and Jason, received grand and reserve honors respectively. Quiet Valley Classic Heidi received her top finish based on the quality of her udder with Jason's entry, Northkill Creek Bridge Frosty, sired by Bridge View Jubilation, receiving the best owned and bred honors. Randy also had the Junior Champion, Northkill Creek Custom Hazel, an intermediate calf.

In the Jersey, Guernsey and Ayrshire competitions, Raun chose relatively young animals. In the Ayrshire group Sam Seidel's Heindel Johnny Shemrock, and Jed Vail's Karlyn R. Command's Keeley were the grand and reserve champions of the breed even though they were both junior calf entries. Both exhibited the clean angular look Raun favored and they lacked senior level competition.

In the Guernsey breed there were older entries but Raun chose potential over proven performance by naming Daniel Hollenbach's intermediate calf, Lebanon Valley Boris Tina as the Grand Champion + Heidi Schlegel's summer yearling, R.-Lost Creek Victory Sundance as the reserve champion. Sundance, a Bettswards Telestars Victory daughter was also named as best owned and bred.

Irish Creek GG Mary, a senior two-year-old owned by Amy Phillips was named the grand champ-

Results are as follows:

SHOWMANSHIP

8 and 9 year olds
1. Erica Davis; 2. Lynette Heffner; 3. Melissa Werley.

10 and 11 year olds
1. Amy Phillips; 2. Amy Hollenbach, 3. Michael Gross

12 and 13 year olds
1. Jason Balthaser, 2. Jeremy Troutman, 3. Michael Hix.

14 and 15 year olds
1. Randy Balthaser, 2. Jennifer Hix, 3. Chad Stambaugh.

16 and over
1. Scott Youse; 2. Dwayne Stump; 3. Jeffrey Davis.

Grand Champion

Scott Youse

Reserve

Dwayne Stump

Honorable Mention

Enca Davis

Lynette Heffner

FITTING

8 and 9 year olds

1. Lynette Heffner; 2. Enca Davis; 3. David Nirschl

10 and 11 year olds
1. Leslie Nirschl; 2. Beth Phillips; 3. Angela Werley.

12 and 13 year olds
1. Steve Geist; 2. Brooke Meyers, 3. Jed Vail.

14 and 15 year olds
1. Randy Balthaser; 2. Josh Galloway, 3. Dean Kohler.

16 and over
1. Heidi Schlegel; 2. Scott Youse, and 3. Dwayne Stump.

Grand Champion

Leslie Nirschl

Reserve

Lynette Heckman

TYPE CLASSES

HOLSTEINS

Junior Calf

1. Brian Richard, 2. Amy Richard; 3. Keith Driebelbis

Intermediate Calf

1. Erica Davis, 2. Melissa Werley, 3. Lynette Heffner.

Senior Calf

1. Jeremy Troutman, 2. Jeff Davis, 3. Bradley Biehl.

Summer Yearling

1. Jed Vail; 2. Scott Youse, 3. Brian Richard.

Jr. Yearling

1. Stacey Geist; 2. Jennifer Davis, 3. Sandra Gross

Intermediate Yearling

1. Stacey Geist, 2. Jeremy Troutman, 3. Leslie Nirschl

Sr. Yearling

1. Brian Richard, 2. Melissa Werley 3. Michael Gross

Junior Champion

1. Jeremy Troutman

Reserve

Stacey Geist

Dry Cows 3 years and over

1. Scott Youse; 2. Michael Hix

Jr. Two year olds

1. Heather Schlegel; 2. Bradley Werley, 3. Chad Stambaugh

Sr. Two year olds

1. Enca Davis, 2. Angela Werley, 3. Jeffrey Davis; 2. Jennifer Davis, 3. Sandra Gross.

3 year olds

1. Stacey Geist, 2. Brooke Meyers, 3. Duane Stump.

Senior Champion

Jeffrey Davis

Reserve

Scott Youse

Grand Champion

Jeffrey Davis

Reserve

Scott Youse

Best Owner/Breeder

Jeff Davis

JERSEY

Jr. Calf

1. Joshua Galloway, 2. Laura Phillips, 3. Lynne Koinski.

Int. Calf

1. Tammy Epting.

Sr. Calf

1. Laura Phillips, 2. Amy Phillips; 3. Joshua Galloway.

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Leslie Nirschl (right) and Lynette Heffner (left) picked up grand and reserve grand fitting trophies at the Berks County show.



Amy Phillips shows off her grand champion senior 2-year-old Jersey while David Nirschl holds his reserve grand champion a junior 2-year-old.