

Franklin County 4-H'ers Hold Baby Beef Club Banquet

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KAUFFMAN STATION
(Franklin Co.) — When Donnie Sheiss joined the Franklin County 4-H Baby Beef Club in 1979 he was teased, "What does a hog man know about steers?" Donnie's parents, Daryl and Penny Sheiss, own and operate a hog farm near Chambersburg.

Donnie, now 19 and a sophomore at Pennsylvania State University, credits the teasing with helping to make him a successful Baby Beef Club member. "They did me a favor," he said in his farewell speech as a graduating 4-H Baby Beef Club member, "I was determined to prove something, not to the hecklers, but to myself. I committed myself to hanging in there, being competitive, learning to fit a steer, and helping others who didn't know how."

His commitment was so firm that he gave up sports in high school to devote more time to his beef projects. And it all paid off, because he has won every county beef award two or three times during his 10-year 4-H career, and has competed successfully on the state level. He also has served as president, vice president, and treasurer of the local club.

Donnie, who is majoring in animal science, noted that the money earned from his beef projects has helped him to pay his college tuition and has enabled him to "drive a decent car and accumulate a beef herd." He runs a cow-calf operation with younger brothers, Eric and David, also Baby Beef Club members, who take care of Donnie's beef projects while he is at college.

The highlight of Donnie's 4-H career came at the 1988 Somerset County Jackpot Preview Show, he said, when his home-raised steer was named reserve champion.

His biggest disappointment was never managing to show the grand champion at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show. "I put my best effort forward for two years," he said, "and I showed the reserve grand champion in 1987, but I never showed the grand champion. No one from Franklin County ever has."

In introducing Donnie to the 95 people at the November 4 Baby Beef Club awards banquet, club leader Leon Lebo said, "Donnie has made me a better leader. He gives 110 percent at every beef activity. He'll be back as a leader of the 4-H Baby Beef Club."

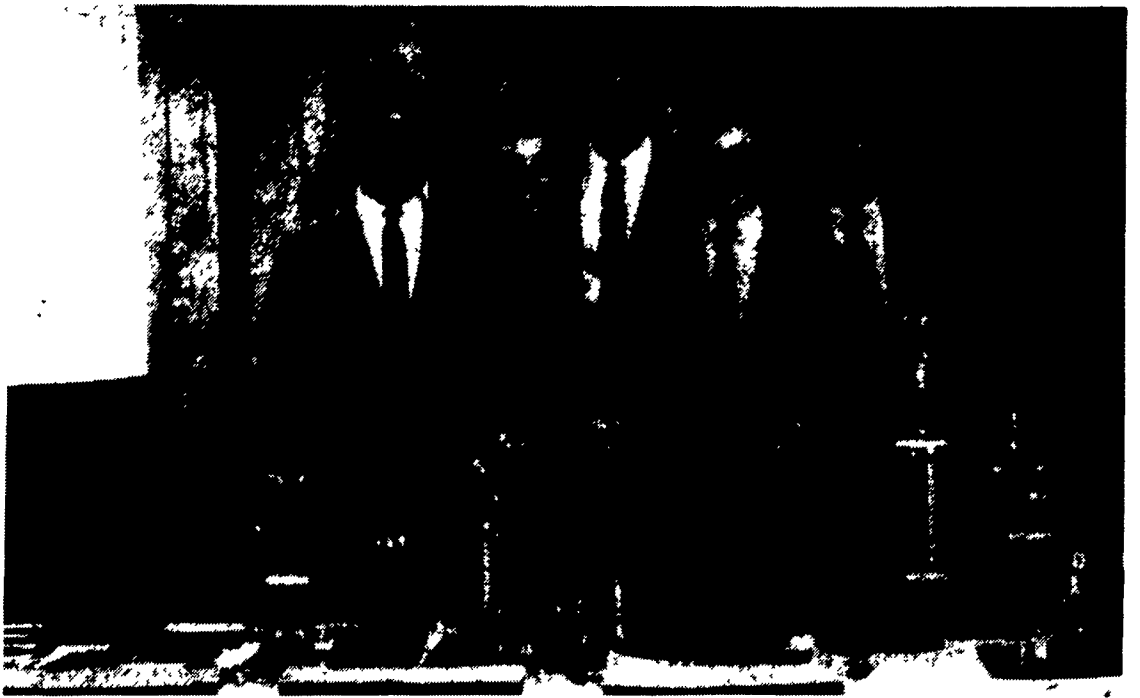
"I was fortunate to have a leader like Leon," Donnie responded in his speech. "He lets the members run the club and make their own decisions. He is truly interested in young people."

After college, Donnie plans to farm with his father.

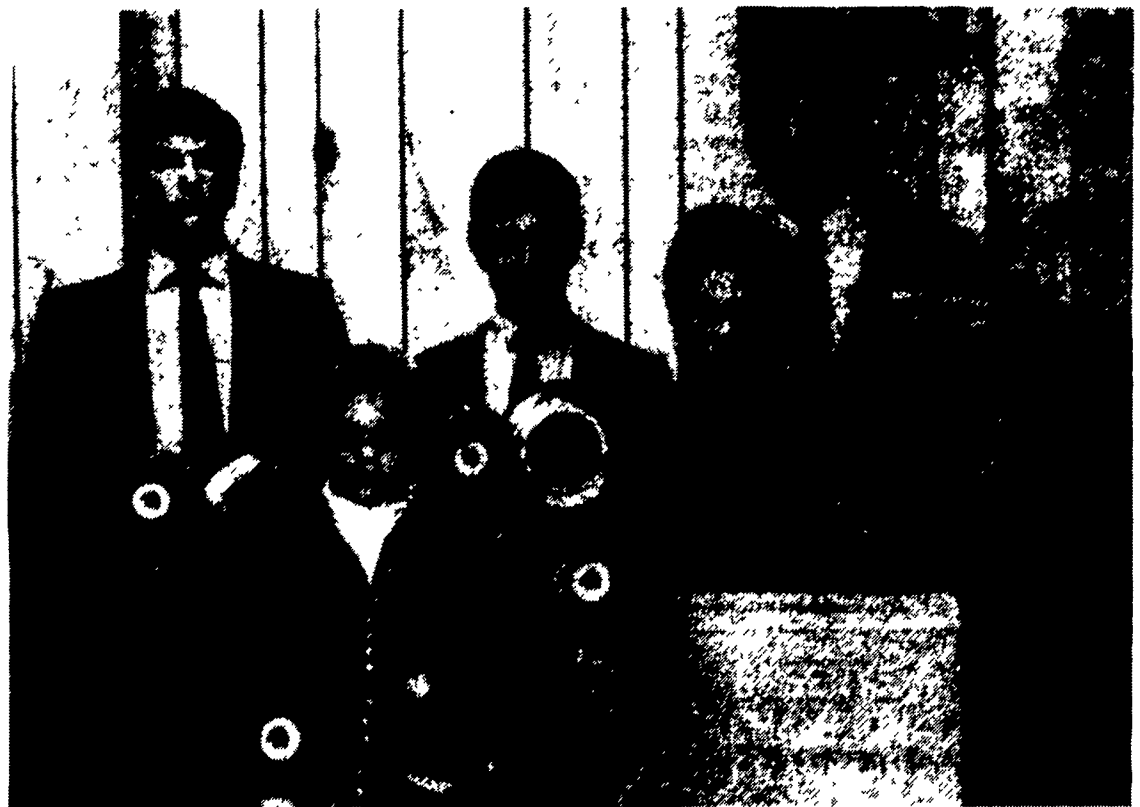
Receiving best project book awards at the banquet, held at the Kauffman Ruritan Building, were:

1. David Sheiss, 2. Donnie Sheiss, 3. Eric Sheiss, 4. Beth Amsley, and 5. Ryan Eshleman.

- Daily gain awards went to: 1. Steve Clapsaddle, 2.72 pounds a day; 2. Jimmy Clapsaddle, 2.53 pounds a day; Cheryl Hawbaker, 2.53 pounds a day; 3. Kristina Eshleman, 2.42 pounds a day; and Michael Schellhase, 2.42 pounds a day.



All three Sheiss showed weight class champions at the county's recent 4-H beef roundup. In his last year of 4-H, Donnie showed the grand champion and was named grand champion showman. David was named grand champion fitter. From left are Eric, Donnie, and David, with their parents Penny and Daryl.



The conformation-class champions of the Franklin County 4-H Baby Beef Club are, back row, from left: Daren Statler, David Sheiss, and Donnie Sheiss; front row: Cheryl Hawbaker and Lorinda Hawbaker.

American Hereford Association Elects Officers

KANSAS CITY, MO — Tom Sellman of Chadron, Ne., was elected to the post of president of the American Hereford Association during the group's 108th annual meeting held recently in Kansas City. Elected to serve as senior vice president was Loyd Whitehead of Dallas, Texas.

Sellman has served the past year as senior vice president and succeeds Charles Martin of Bartlesville, OK, at the helm of the world's largest beef breed registry organization.

Sellman and his wife, Shirley, operate the TSR near Chadron. He has spent his entire lifetime around registered Herefords. He grew up on the famed Sellman Brothers Ranch at Watrous, NM, which was owned by his father, Marshall, and uncle, Dick. This highly successful registered herd was established in 1943. Marshall

Sellman served as AHA president in 1965.

In 1973, Tom and his family moved their operation to Chadron where their herd now numbers some 200 head. Tom and Shirley and their son, Richard, all are active in the operation. Their daughter, Robin Meeks, is associated with the Upstream Ranch herd in Nebraska.

Sellman has served as a member of the AHA board since 1984. He has served as a director of the Nebraska Hereford Association and is active in the Nebraska and National Cattlemen's Associations, the Methodist Church and has served as president of the Chadron Community Hospital.

Loyd Whitehead has served as an AHA director since 1985. He has several business interests including the Rocking Chair Ranch at Ft. McKavett, Tx., and the Li-

pan Springs Division of RCR near San Angelo. The Hereford herd numbers some 225 head. Whitehead has owned the Rocking Chair Ranch since 1958. The herd was made up of commercial Herefords until the establishment of the registered herd in 1966. The Rocking Chair Ranch has been active and successful in the showing and annually holds a production sale. Loyd and wife, Carol, are the parents of two daughters. He has served as president of the Texas Hereford Association.

Newly elected to serve on the AHA board of directors are Phil Harvey Jr. of Las Cruces, NM, and Don Dennis of Grady, OK. They succeed Charles Martin and Glynn Debter of Horton, AL, who had served two three-year terms and were not eligible for re-election.



Loyd Whitehead



Tom Sellman

Shepherd's Symposium Set For Early December

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Forage production and health are the main topic for the Fourth Annual Shepherd's Symposium to be held at the Sheraton Lancaster, December 8 and 9. New this year is a mini-tour scheduled for the afternoon of December 7 with an evening program on lamb marketing to be held at the Lancaster

County Extension center.

Dr. Robert Van Keuren, Ohio State University, will address such topics as pasture systems for extending the grazing season and optimizing forage use during the gestation and lactation production phases. An added feature this year will be the presence of infrared forage analysis equipment for evaluating forage quality and nutritive value. Such information on your home-grown forages has proven to be both a big money saver on the winter feed bills and also a great teacher in acquiring a better understanding of forage quality and its impact on production.

Lamb mortality diagnosis and prevention, ovine progressive pneumonia, external parasite control and the prevention and treatment of nutritional disorders are some of the major topics to be discussed by Dr. Joe Rook of Michigan State University and Dr. Thomas Drake and Dr. Robert Smith of Penn State University.

For the handcraft folks and those interested in starting a small business, Dr. Jim Beirerlien, Penn State University will speak on "Small Business Management and Marketing." Ginny Mutto of Huntingdon County will conduct several workshops on handspinning. Beginning shepherds will be interested in attending the work-

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