

Love Of Animals, Competition

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Mussers abandoned the hog and steer operation.

Harold, an ag representative for John Cope's Food Products, finds profitable "farm management" in warehousing some 15,000 square feet of space, in addition to managing some 200,000 broilers each year under contract with Henninger's Feed Mill (College Hill Poultry).

The family's love and involvement with 4-H got them started on the show road, a tradition that maintains. According to Judy, 4-H taught her children essential leadership and public speaking skills and opened their minds to other farm- and non-farm experiences.

Farm Show

"The biggest thing about the Farm Show is that you meet a lot of people," said Doug, who will be awarded the coveted FFA Keystone Degree at the Farm Show on Wednesday.

He lists future plans "to accomplish the unaccomplishable in farming and agriculture." Doug, 19, is majoring in animal science with an emphasis on business. "It's something that is going to help me out if I ever go into farming," he said.

Though he is uncertain what aspect of farming he will be involved with after college, Doug knows that it "depends on what looks good when I get out of college," he said.

Diane has applied at several colleges. Farming is an option she will pursue more likely if she marries a farmer, she said. Diane would like to study art education and teach at the high school level in the future.

Loves animals

"Diane just loves animals," said her mother, Judy, a second grade teacher at East High Elementary School. "When she gave up her first pig, she hugged it and said, 'I don't want to sell it.'"

Diane is involved in the Lancaster Beef Club, Sheep Club, and Swine Club, "probably the only kid in the county in all three clubs," said Harold. "Which drives (Doug) up the wall, because



Diane Musser shows "Muffins," a Dorset cross market lamb that she featured in the 4-H roundup. Diane will also be showing swine and beef at the state Farm Show.



Diane Musser, left, on the reins of "Rebel," her 1,300-pound Angus/Chianina cross, is on to the Farm Show. Doug holds on to "Spike," a 1,325-pound cross of the same breed type, also at the show.

he has to take care of them."

The oldest, Greg, 23, was the two-time champion of the Elizabethtown Fair and has been on several award-winning livestock teams, including the Pennsylvania Meats Judging and Penn State Livestock Judging teams. He went to Louisville, Ky. in the national competition. Tricia, 21, also was a member of the Penn State Livestock Judging Team and placed in the top 10 in the national competition. She recently graduated from Lancaster Bible College with a secretarial degree.

Doug placed in the Manheim Fair and Elizabethtown. He also

placed high in the Eastern National Livestock competition in Timonium Md. this past year, along with Diane.

4-H Shepherd

Diane, this year's 4-H Shepherd of the Year, won championship showmanship at Elizabethtown.

Though it's a lot of work, the Farm Show is a big and vital event in the Musser's farm life.

They go for "the same reason that people show horses or any other animal, or go to craft shows or whatever," said Harold. "It's a hobby, more or less, plus it's a good learning experience. If they win, they can do all right."

Lebanon Winter Roundup

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The reserve grand champion market lamb weighed 116 pounds and was shown by Daryl Grumbine. It was bought by Michael Firestine of Lebanon Valley National Bank for \$1.50 per pound.

The grand champion market beef animal was shown by Shelby Heagy. Weighing 1,125 pounds, the animal was bought for \$1.22

per pound by David Martin with Dutchway Markets Inc.

The reserve grand champion beef animal was shown by Josh Moyer and weighed 1,465 pounds. Bob Blecker, executive vice president for Carlos R. Leffler, purchased the animal for \$1.07 per pound.

The grand champion market hog was shown by Stacy Krall and

weighed 243 pounds. Ezra Good, representing Hatfield Meats Inc. purchased the animal for \$1.80 per pound.

Nevin Dourte, agribusiness manager for Jacob Ruhl Insurance Co. in Manheim, also paid \$1.80 per pound for a 223 pound reserve grand market hog shown by Breanne Hoffer.

The three-species judge for the event was Keith Bryan, coach of the Penn State University judging team. It was his first year judging the event.

The event provides an opportunity for those who are not taking animals to the Farm Show to get some experience in showing and reward from the local community.

For those youth who are taking market animals to the Farm Show, the round-up allows them to warm-up for showing off animals in preparation for the big event.

The animals of the youth who do plan to go to the Farm Show are those that are judged by the youth to be their second best offering, according to Kenneth Winebark, county extension agent. "We hope they are the second best," he said.

He said those animals that are shown at the roundup could very well be Farm Show winners, but a choice has to be made.

LEBANON 4-H LIVESTOCK WINTER ROUNDUP

MARKET HOGS

GRAND CHAMPION: Stacy Krall
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION: Breanne Hoffer

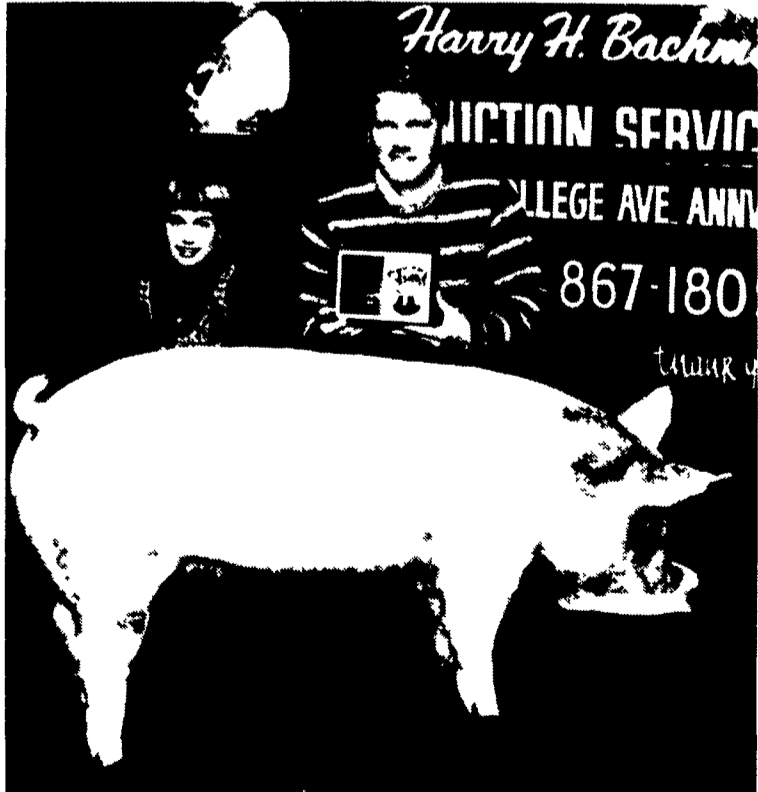


Stacy Krall kneels behind her grand champion market hog next to Ezra Good who holds the buyer's plaque.

CHAMPION LIGHT HEAVY WEIGHT: Trisha Berger
CHAMPION LIGHTWEIGHT: Laura Arnold
RESERVE CHAMPION HEAVY-WEIGHT: Breanne Hoffer
RESERVE CHAMPION LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: Jenny Arnold
RESERVE CHAMPION MEDIUM-WEIGHT: Laura Arnold
RESERVE CHAMPION LIGHT-WEIGHT: Jeff Bombgardner

BEEF
GRAND CHAMPION: Shelby Heagy
RESERVE CHAMPION: Josh Meyer

SHEEP
GRAND CHAMPION: Benjamin Bow
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION: Daryl Grumbine
LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION: Daryl Grumbine
RESERVE LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION: Wendy Atkins



Breanne Hoffer smiles broadly while standing behind her reserve grand champion market hog. Nevin Dourte holds the buyer's plaque.



Josh Meyer holds steady his reserve grand champion beef animal while Bob Blecker displays the buyer's plaque.