

# Kutztown Fair

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ey," said Brennan's mom, who grabbed the halter to stop the calf. "We'll have to do something different for the next fair."

Despite his troubles, Brennan placed third overall.

Sarah Johnson, an alternate Berks County Dairy Queen, and her friend, Denise Hoch, placed fourth with their two Jersey calves in Hawaiian grass skirts.

Sarah and Denise also wore grass skirts over their shorts and walked around the show ring in bare feet.

When told she was taking quite a chance in her bare feet, Sarah replied that she hadn't stepped on anything "big."

Stacey Dietrich, who earlier had the grand champion Holstein in the show, and her friend Jennifer Rassler were the grand champions in the Mardi Gras. They also depicted a Batman entourage, with Stacey as Vicki Vale and Jennifer as the Joker. Their Holstein was costumed as The Penguin.

In the colored breeds portion of the dairy show on Wednesday, the winner of the champion Ayrshire once again was Jed Vail of Myerstown. Jed, a junior at Tulpehocken High School, also had the

reserve grand champion Ayrshire.

Judge Ronald R. Daubert of Pine Grove liked the strength of this 5-year-old cow, Jed said.

The grand champion Brown Swiss was awarded to Randy Balthaser of Bernville for his

9-year-old cow, Gilda.

"She has a real heavy frame on her for her age," Randy said about the judge's preference for his animal.

Other grand champion trophy winners were as follows: Holstein, Stacey Dietrich of Germansville, Lehigh County; Guernsey, Daniel Hollenbach of Berwyn; Jersey,



Scott Youse of Oley holds his grand champion Jersey, Dairyland Topaz Comet, a 3-year-old. At last year's fair, she was the reserve grand champion. Her sire was Grandclare ASM Topaz and her dam was Dairyland VSB Cosmos 13S.

Scott Youse, Oley; Milking Shorthorn, Jamie Yost of Boyertown; Dairy Showman, Steven Dietrich of Germansville, Lehigh County.

Dairy Fitter, Stacey Geist of Mertztown; Beef Fitter, Amy Eshelman of Shillington; Beef

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## Simple Estimations

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multiplied by 1,000 to give the estimated pounds per acre and then divided by 2,000 to give the tonnage per acre.

That number is then multiplied by the number of acres which comprise the field. That gives the estimate yield.

A similarly-contrived method is used to estimate grain yield, with added steps for gathering the ears, weighing and then taking into account the dryness at storage (about 15.5 percent moisture).

The benefits of estimating crop yields are to not only see how much crop can be expected for better farm management, but to be able to realistically set yield goals and thus nutrient needs to reach those goals. Testing for yield goals must be performed year after year to be of any value.

The practice is also beneficial if a producer wants to do variety checks.

Jeff Schmid, a nutrient management specialist with DER's Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation, said he is involved with

providing technical assistance to conservation districts and to look at cost sharing and has the primary goal of preventing water pollution.

He said a goal is to increase the awareness and use of the manure tests, but mostly so that farmers know what nutrients they are putting into the soil. From there they can add.

"You don't have to use book values," he said. "Book values can vary 100 percent" from what is actually in the manure to be applied.

Also, he said that the method of sample taking is as important as applying manure.

"If you spend \$30 for a manure test, you want a good representative sample," he said, adding that it doesn't make sense to spend that much money and not really have a good idea of how much less or more of a commercial nutrient is needed.

Soil tests should be taken every three years, he said.

A soil test gives a base for existing nutrient levels, the manure test gives the additional amounts of nutrients which can be applied, plus the amount of starter fertilizer should be taken into account.

The amount of nutrients needed depends on the crop and expected yield.

Information on the specific nutrient needs of a projected crop yield are available.

To figure how much additional commercial fertilizer is to be needed, calculate the amount of available nutrients existing in the soil, add the manure and starter fertilizer amounts and the amount that should be side-dressed is that amount needed to equal the amount needed by the crops.

Also, to accurately predict how much nutrient value per acre is coming from manure applications, the spreader rate must be calibrated. It can be done with 10-foot by 10-foot plastic sheets that the spreader is driven over, at the normal application speed.

The amount of manure on the plastic is weighed. From testing the manure, the estimate nutrient value per weight is multiplied by the weight of the manure on the plastic and a usable value for manure nutrients can be gained.

According to the speakers, the advantages of using nutrient management tools and estimation tools is that maximum yield goals can be set and achieved, it makes the best use out of livestock byproducts, it is flexible and can be custom tailored to a wide variety of situations and it requires a small investment.

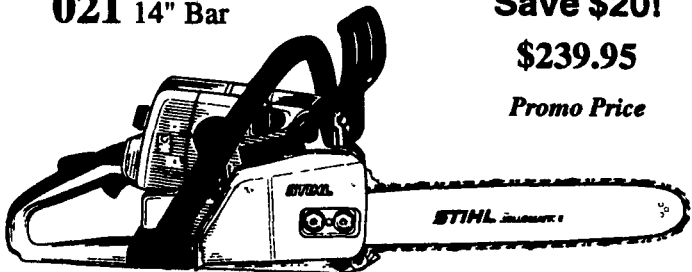
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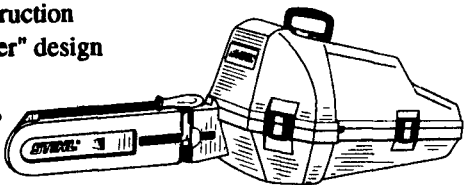
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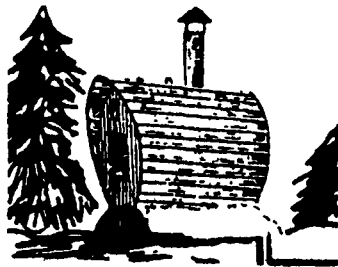
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