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Three hundred members of the Lancaster County Holstein Association ride the Strasburg Railroad in front of Cherry-Crest Farm, Paradise, as part

of the program for their annual field day held Thursday. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.

Lancaster Holstein Breeders Fellowship At Field Day

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

PARADISE (Lancaster Co.)—The combination of beautifully pedigreed registered Holsteins on a meticulously manicured farm and a ride on the Strasburg Railroad that runs 900 feet from the barn, provided a well-received day of fellowship at the Lancaster County Holstein Field Day. After a train ride in the morning, the coun-

ty breeders and their families came back to Jack and Donna Coleman's Cherry-Crest Farm to judge three classes of dairy animals in competition for prizes, had a noon meal under the trees on the lawn, and listened to several speakers including Steve Kerr, CEO and executive secretary of the National Holstein Association.

"I have always looked at the National Holstein Association as

an organization of people who like to market animals," Kerr said. "Yes, they like to breed animals, but all dairy farmers in a sense breed animals. But what really pulls our people together is the fact that they like to market genetics in one fashion or another.

"I try to keep our eyes on what activities will help our members market," Kerr said. "This has a special meaning as margins on the farm become tighter. Most Holstein breeders make plenty of milk, but they also look at their farm enterprise and ask where they can squeeze more out of their operations. Obviously that means selling genetics."

Kerr listed various changes in programs and circumstances at the National Holstein Association. They include the new qualified herd book; new methods of animal identification; a system in addition to index numbers to help rate animal pedigrees; additional information on pedigrees; and new packaging for sire summaries and herd mating programs.

The new qualified herd book now has 7,000 animals registered and is working along side the registered herd book. Kerr said qualified animals are now being shown. Since the "lion's share" of dairy animals is the grade population, hopefully, the qualified registry will generate a little interest in the grade cow herds. Canada has a distinction between purebreds and QE animals but they don't make a big deal about it because they want to sell animals.

"With the dairy animal population now down to 10 million and



On Thursday night, Peter Hoffines paraded his grand champion market steer, a 1,285-pound Maine Anjou/Angus/Simmental cross named Tyrone, to a supreme animal championship at the Elizabethtown Fair.

Judges Select Steer E-Town Supreme Animal

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — "I wasn't expecting any of this," said Peter Hoffines, as he marched his 1,285-pound champion market steer out of the ring.

Moments before, the 18-year-old son of Bob and Linda Hoffines, Marietta, was awarded supreme champion animal of the Elizabethtown Fair on Thursday evening with his 1,285-pound Maine Anjou/Angus/Simmental cross named Tyrone.

Peter, who will be traveling in

November to help represent the state in FFA judging competition at the National FFA Convention, has won four years in a row at the fair. But this is his first supreme animal crown.

Judge Kelley Shearer of the Pennsylvania Beef Council said the well-muscled steer "puts everything together in a real neat package" and will provide many "high-priced cuts."

Peter competed against an array of grand champion animals at the contest, including the swine champion shown by Linda Baum,

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Sellers Brothers Share 4-H Swine Roundup

JOYCE BUPP

York Co. Correspondent
THOMASVILLE (York Co.) — Let the pigs do the exercising, rather than the pig project owners. That's the philosophy of York 4-H swine exhibitors Adam and Matt Sellers. And it's an approach that apparently works.

The Thomasville brothers brought their allowable limit of three pigs each to the county's first summer roundup and sale, and carted off five first places. Adam, 13, then won the roundup championship with his 230-pound purebred Duroc market hog entry, purchased from White Oaks Farm.

Matt, 17, earned the reserve champion honors with his 245-pound Duroc-crossbred entry, bred by Dave Myers, Wellsville.

Hatfield Packing Company held out as final bidder on the two top pigs. Buyer Ezra Good made the final \$2.60 per pound price offer on Adam's champion, and won the reserve champion bid

with a \$1.40 per pound nod.

"We keep our pigs on a hilled pasture," said Matt of the brothers' technique for growing lean, muscled, judge-pleasing swine. "The feed is at the top of the hill and the shade is at the bottom. We let them do their own exercising."

Adam and Matt are the sons of Phil and Shirley Sellers, Thomasville. Selection of their project pigs at the beginning of the season is a joint father-sons effort, according to Matt.

Jason Rankin, on the other hand, works with a "mud puddle" technique.

The 18-year-old Abbottstown 4-H'er exhibited the champion pair, a matched set of purebred Durocs scaling in at 240- and 250-pound weights. His project hogs are walked regularly, and run through a sizeable puddle where they cool down while getting an additional workout on their muscles.

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