

Record Bids Seal Milk Auction's Success

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WHITNEYVILLE (Tioga Co.)
— \$560 for one gallon of milk? That's the price Gabe Greco of Greco's Super Duper paid, and he was happy to do it.

The occasion marked the third annual Tioga County Milk Auction held Saturday, August 14 at the Tioga County Fair and featured one gallon of milk from each of the five grand champion dairy cows (junior division) at the fair.

Because of Greco's generosity, and that of the other buyers, kids throughout the state, as well as the county, will benefit from the proceeds.

While 25 percent of the money goes to the exhibitor, another 25 percent is donated to the exhibitor's club or chapter, and the remaining 50 percent is used to sponsor Tioga County 4-H and FFA educational events.

"The money (from the milk auction) helps fund hands-on sessions with teachers and veterinarians during events like the Dairy Youth Management Workshop at Penn State and Youth Dairy Day in Tioga County," said Craig Williams, Tioga County Cooperative extension agent. "And those programs have been highly successful educational tools benefiting dairy oriented youth."

Greco's milk came from Stoney

Knob Grigadier Valarie, a 3-year-old Jersey owned by Joseph Sweely of Mansfield. Other buyers were Middlebury Co-op (represented by Don Gilman) who paid \$230 for milk from Blue-Devils Clover, a 2-year-old Ayrshire owned by Kevin Wales (who also presented his rosette to the buyer); Check-R-Board (represented by Tony Rishel), paid \$200 for milk from Shady Creek Ida Isabell K, a 9-year-old Brown Swiss (and the oldest champion at the fair) owned by Rebecca Bechtel of Covington; Judson Agway (represented by Larry Harvey) paid \$260 for milk from EsBern Enhancer Bute Buddy, a 4-year-old Holstein owned by Olivia Courtney of Mansfield; and Pelton Trucking (in a phone in bid) paid \$190 for milk from Castles King Flash Gloria, a 2-year-old Guernsey owned by David Kriner of Mansfield.

A basket, made by Jackie Gummo of Wellsboro, containing two T-shirts and a hat donated by the American Dairy Association and cheese donated by Eastern Dairy Store in Wellsboro was also auctioned off. Half of the proceeds from the basket went to the Junior Livestock Auction Committee while the other half will be used by the Milk Auction Committee as seed money for next year's auction.

Preceding the milk auction was the Tioga County Junior Live-



Milk Auction buyers and sellers with their grand champion animals patiently grouped together for this photo. From left to right: Don Gilman representing Middlebury Co-op; Gabe Greco of Greco's Super Duper; Joe Sweely; Kevin Wales; Dave Kriner; Rebecca Bechtel; Olivia Courtney; Tony Rishel representing Check-R-Board; and Larry Harvey from Judson Agway. Pelton Trucking, not shown, was a call-in buyer.

stock Sale featuring 67 market animals raised by 31 4-H or FFA exhibitors.

According to Earle D. Robbins, Tioga County Extension agent and sale chairman, the sale has come a long way since its inception 12 years ago when nine junior exhibitors sold 19 animals to six buyers, grossing a total of \$2,992.74. This year, the sale had 28 new buyers on hand, keeping the prices well above market value, grossing \$23,000.

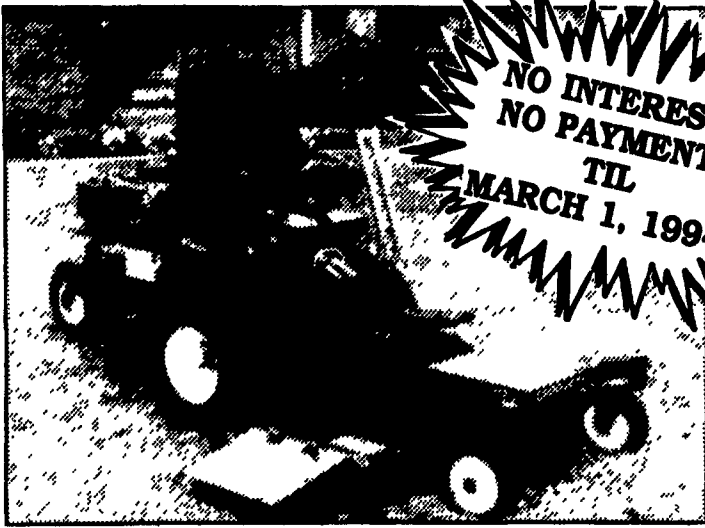
In a remarkable display of support for the young exhibitors, Pelton Trucking of Monroeton purchased a 120-pound market lamb from Laura Fitch of Roaring Branch and donated it back to the Tioga County 4-H program. The

animal was then repurchased by Brook's Lumber Company.

Photographs taken of exhibitors and buyers with their animals will be presented to the buyers at a recognition banquet at the Tioga County Fairgrounds Oct. 20.



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