

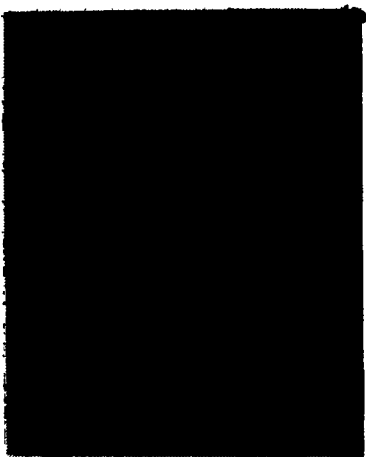
Linton Exhibits Solanco Beef Champion

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — Brad Linton suspected he had a champion after selecting a calf from the herd of Charles Flowers in Staunton, Va. On Thursday night, Brad's 1,245-pound Maine Anjou/Angus/Chianina cross was honored as supreme beef champion at the Solanco Fair.

Brad, 17, son of Fred and Deb Linton, Kirkwood, is a Solanco senior. This is his third championship at Solanco.

Judge Ned Sayre, who operates a 130-brood cow registered Angus farm called Waffle Hill in Church Hill, Md., said the heavyweight steer was a complete package. "It has a thick, wide top, adequate in condition, and extremely correct,"

Sayre told the exhibitors. "It is an extremely eye-appealing, good-



Matt Strickler won junior showmanship champion at the Solanco Fair.

looking steer, easily the most correct steer in its class today."

Reserve champion was awarded to the heavily muscled second-place heavyweight, shown by Tim Craig. Tim, 17, son of Charles and Elaine Craig, Little Britain, showed the 1,265-pound Angus/Chianina cross named "Buz." Tim, a Solanco senior and FFA member, said he has placed in 4-H competition at the fair in the past.

It was one of the coolest, rainiest nights in Solanco Fair history. In all, there were a total of 15 exhibitors. Following is a list of show placings.

SOLANCO FAIR BEEF SHOW RESULTS

MARKET STEERS
Lightweight: 1. Matt Strickler. 2. Gary Welk. 3.

Justin Hill.
Middleweight: 1. Jim Landis. 2. Jamie Welk. 3. Deryll Supplee.
Heavyweight: 1. Brad Linton. 2. Tim Craig. 3. Matt Welk.

SUPREME CHAMPION
Brad Linton
RESERVE
Tim Craig

SHOWMANSHIP

Juniors: 1. Matt Strickler. 2. Gary Welk. 3. Deryll Supplee. Seniors: 1. Brad Linton. 2. Tim Craig. 3. Jamie Welk.



Brad Linton was senior showmanship champion on Thursday night at the Solanco Fair.

Four Adjoining Farms Preserve Land In Northampton County

ANDY ANDREWS
BANGOR (Northampton Co.) — In an attempt to keep a large agricultural area free from residential or commercial development into perpetuity, land from four farms here was recently preserved under the Pennsylvania Farmland Protection Act.

The preserved farmland, totalling 801 acres, is located approximately 10 miles north of Easton along the Delaware River. It extends in one large tract between Martin's Creek and Belvedere, N.J.

This is the first time that four contiguous, or adjoining, farms have joined in preserving land in the state at one time, according to Fred Wertz, director of the Bureau of Farmland Protection with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

The farms include Arling and Frances Kiefer, who operate a dairy, steer, and hog operation, 252 acres, for \$614,955; Elwood and Pauline Fox, crops and steers, 306 acres, \$429,012; Jim and Patricia Gulick, an orchard, 95 acres, \$185,000; and Paul and Ruth Koehler, dairy, 148 acres, \$306,045.

"The county favored preserving

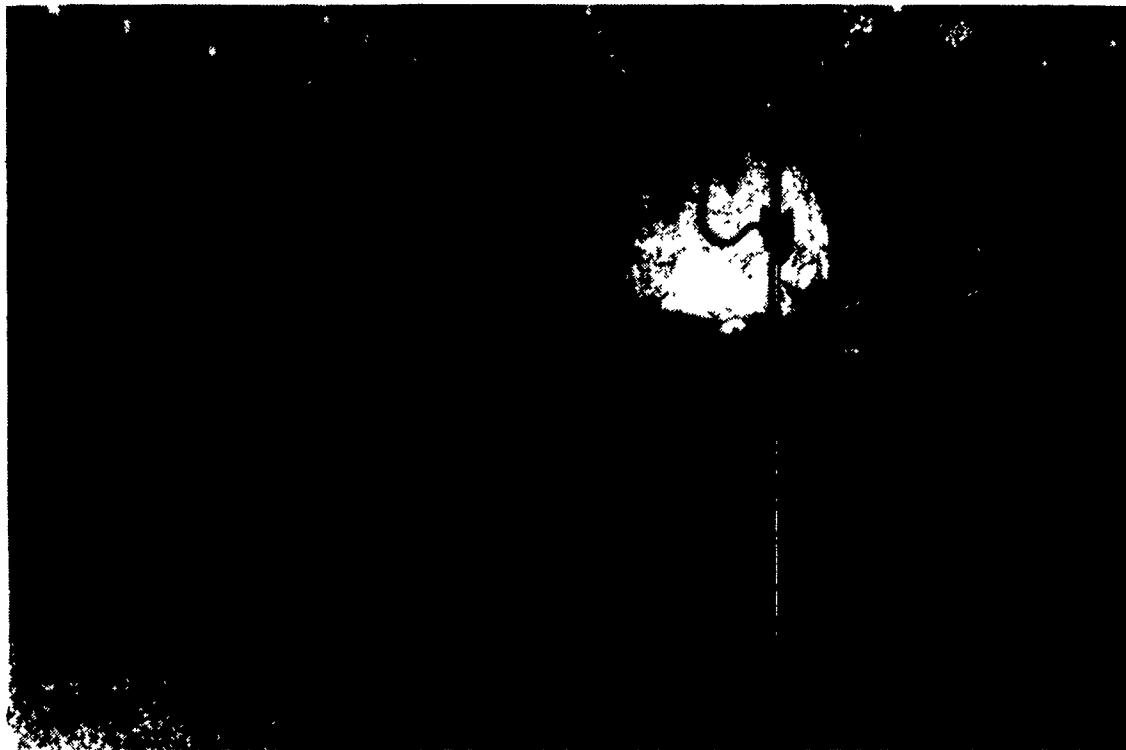
a big tract," said Arling Kiefer. He said they wanted to keep a bigger chunk of the county from being developed, considering the surge in new housing from commuters from New Jersey and other areas looking for inexpensive land.

Arling manages about 200 head of dairy, 200 head of steers, and 200 head of hogs on his farm, of which he owns about 900 acres and rents additional for a total of 2,500 acres. He farms with his two sons, Albert, 35 and Robert, 31, in addition to five full-time employees.

According to Kiefer, it would be a shame if land that he helped convert from marginal and rocky to prime farmland 20 to 30 years ago would be lost to development. He said that the more development that occurs in the county, the more feed suppliers and implement dealers will leave, further eroding the farm industry in the county.

Also, commuters have increased, especially from across the state border in New Jersey. "They don't think anything about going 60 miles for a job," he said.

The farmer said that land from other farms in the county are under consideration for preservation in 1994. About 27 farms have applied.



Brad Linton, center, exhibited his 1,245-pound supreme market beef champion at the Solanco Fair Thursday night. At left is reserve champion, Tim Craig. At right is fair judge Ned Sayre.

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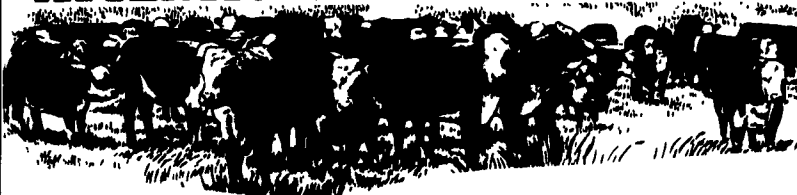
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