

Dutch Country Calf Sale Provides Forum For Youth

NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) — A purebred Angus calf sold for \$750 to top last Saturday's sixth annual Dutch Country Calf Sale and Show, held at the Lebanon Area Fairgrounds.

The annual sale is sponsored by the Berks/Southeast Cattlemen's Association, in conjunction with

the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association and is held as a way to make steer and heifer calves available to raise as 4-H or FFA project animals or otherwise to show, or to add to a breeding program.

Also held in conjunction with the sale and show is an instructional evening, held the night before the sale, for youth intending to purchase and/or raise a beef cattle calf for a 4-H or FFA project.

During the instructional evening, Rebecca Sonnen, a former county 4-H club member who now works for the Middle Atlantic Milk Marketing Agency, presented a motivational and instructional talk on career opportunities in agriculture.

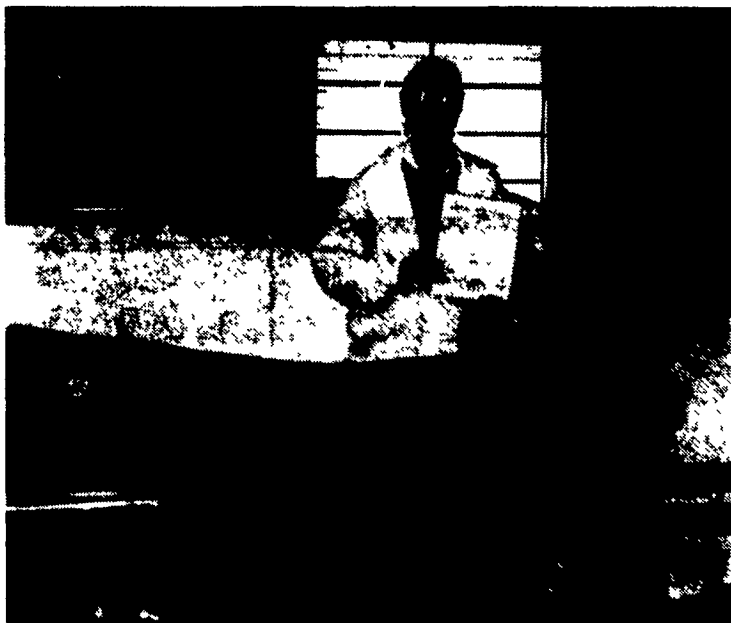
Practical demonstrations and talks came from Dr. Lynn Sammons, a Myerstown-based large animal veterinarian who discussed feeder calf health care, and Elene Hitz, who demonstrated techniques for grooming and fitting cattle for show.

According to Sheila Miller, representative of the Southeastern Pa./Berks County Cattlemen's Association, the Dutch Country Calf Sale was designed to be more of a genetic sale, more of a club calf sale, which has been growing in popularity and success.

"We had kids from as far away as Northampton and Centre counties and a lot of interest in the pre-sale youth conference," she said.



Rebecca Sonnen, with Middle Atlantic Milk Marketing Agency, talks to a group of 4-Hers about career planning and opportunities in agriculture.



Jason Stoltzfus holds the halter of his champion steer calf.



Elene Hitz demonstrates fitting steers.



On the left, Jim Simo, and his son Cory, on the right, stand with the purebred Angus calf they bought at the Dutch Country Calf Sale which brought the highest-price paid, and C.J. Haffner, who holds the halter.

During the sale, which offers all animals for sale on a per-head basis, instead of a per-pound basis, a total of \$12,595 was raised on 21 head offered, for a sale average of \$599.76.

The top selling calf was a purebred Angus calf consigned by Salunga Acres, of Mt. Joy, and purchased by Jim Simo, of Lancaster, for son Cory, 13, who is a member of the Lancaster County 4-H and an eighth-grade student in the Conestoga Valley School District.

Two calves tied for second-highest selling, bringing \$675 each: a purebred Polled Hereford also consigned by Salunga Acres, and a purebred Angus consigned by Lester Schwartz, of West Winds Farm, in Kimberton.

There were two calves which tied for the lowest price paid, both were young Simmental-Limousin crossbred calves which brought \$460 per head.

In the show held prior to the sale, Scott Hummel, judge, selected Lester Schwartz's purebred Angus to be champion, and the offspring of a Limousin crossed to a Simmental-Angus crossbred, as the reserve champion.

Both men received cash awards for placing as champions.

For Schwartz, who has been raising registered Angus for eight years, has 25 registered cows and uses all artificial insemination, Saturday was his first time consigning and showing at the Dutch Country Calf Sale.

Arnold, of Lebanon, has 17 commercial cows, mostly August-Simmental crossbred, a registered Limousin bull is the herd sire and he does all natural breeding. He raised the grand champion of this year's Lebanon Area Fair.



Dr. Lynn Sammons, a large animal veterinarian, demonstrates some basic beef calf treatment during a talk on feeder calf health.



Leon Arnold holds the halter of his reserve champion calf of the Dutch Country Calf Sale and Show.