

## Father, Son To Show Ayrshires At Farm Show

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**JONESTOWN** (Lebanon Co.) — Out of the 78 years that the Pennsylvania Farm Show has been held at its Harrisburg complex, a great many fathers and sons, and mothers and daughters, have been involved in the eternal act of guiding the younger generation in the discovery of the world into which they were born.

For Dale and Pattie Maulfair, a Jonestown dairy farm couple who have shown and won with Ayrshires at the Farm Show, it is their turn to be the example and support, the coach and cheering section at the Farm Show: their 9-year-old son Daryl is showing on his own in Farm Show youth competitions for the very first time.

The couple have three children, including Jennifer, who is currently the Lebanon County Little Miss dairy promoter, and youngest David, who is too young to be involved.

But, for this week, it can be

expected that Daryl will be watched closely by his parents with a mixture of concern and joy, as he steps off on his own in a big arena, with lots of strangers watching, and other people from around the state, and a loud booming voice coming over the loudspeakers.

And if his experience is anything like that of others, his concentration on the judge and his animals will make the audience disappear.

Dale Maulfair is not boastful of his son's accomplishments, but he did note that Daryl was champion showman for his age in 4-H and at the county fair.

And appearing outsized in comparison, Daryl began entering show rings early in life, piloting the halter of some of his father's big cows in the show ring.

But this year, with a senior calf and a spring yearling, Daryl is about to take to the ring on own.

Last week, while home from school for the holidays, Daryl spent time walking his calf around



In preparation for the Farm Show Large Arena, Daryl Maulfair gently tugs at the halter of his show calf to encourage the Ayrshire to come along.

the barnyard area at his parents' Maulfair Acres dairy farm.

According to plan, on mid-morning Tuesday, when judging of Ayrshires is scheduled, the winter coats on the calf and yearling will be trimmed down and be clean and shining.

Young Maulfair will be in his show whites. He and his animals will be making their mutual debut in the Farm Show.

He said he is excited about his first time showing, but that he isn't as afraid as he would have been if he never had been in the ring before.

And Dale said that he thinks Daryl is getting a good start because he has won some competitions locally.

Daryl had entered both animals in competitions and they were undefeated this past year, until the state 4-H competitions held in September in conjunction with the Pennsylvania All American Dairy Show.

"He did better than I did (for a first year showing). I was 16 the first year I showed," Dale said, adding that he had to wait until he was old enough to drive himself to the Farm Show.

But Maulfair said that he didn't think that winning is even close to being the most important aspect of showing dairy cattle. He said it is a reward that can help someone stay



Daryl Maulfair pulls the clippers away after finishing a cut, while his father, Dale, looks on in case any suggestions are necessary. The cow is a former grand champion Ayrshire of the state Farm Show.



Daryl Maulfair studies his work carefully, making sure to clip his father's show cow properly.



Daryl Maulfair, 9-years-old, and one of his two Ayrshires entered for the 1994 Farm Show. This is to be his first year showing on his own, following in his father and mother's footsteps.

with a pursuit and it encourages effort to achieve, he said.

Most importantly, he said that showing is a way to develop and enhance an understanding of the cattle breed and exercise an appreciation for doing so.

It is also about a lot of other, tangential activities and issues, such as being subject to judges, and listening to their reasons for placing animals; talking to other breeders, the same age, whose animals are admired and discussing philosophies, feeds, care, production, the future of the industry, the qualities of other cattle, etc.; learning finer points about skills and techniques for grooming, feeding, and some of the finer points of showing animals to accentuate their best qualities in the best possible manner.

It is learning about ethics and morals and values and how to manage time and sleep; when to laugh,

and what is appropriate behavior, and when to get down to business.

And it also teaches how to cope with difficulties and how to enjoy a task.

While Daryl has had some early success in showing, Dale said his own start in showing was about 20 years ago, and it took him a lot longer to achieve some recognition.

"You want (Daryl) to win. I know when I started, I started at the bottom and for years I wondered if I would ever get to the top," Dale said.

Two years ago, however, his then 4-year-old Ayrshire Maulfair Acres Barry Ginny was named grand champion Ayrshire, and a herd mate, Maulfair Acres Larry Jessica, was reserve champion.

He has had several grand champions during the past five years and continues to be active in the Ayrshire Breeders Associa-

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