

# First-Ever Beef Skillathon Draws 58

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, April 16, 1994-A39

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The first-ever Pennsylvania Beef Skillathon was held last Saturday at the 1994 Pennsylvania Beef Expo. The event, which was coordinated by the Pennsylvania Beef Council, had 58 participants. Each individual who completed the skillathon, received a "Beef. Pump Some Iron" t-shirt provided by Merck.

In the junior division, which had 25 participants, Ben Weist, a 10-year-old from Leesport, was the top participant. Weist is member of the Berks County 4-H Beef Club, which also had the first and third place teams in the junior division. In the intermediate division, Clint Filges bested more than 15 other individuals. Filges is a 15-year-old from the Butler Coun-

ty 4-H Beef Breeding Club. His team was also captured first in their division. The senior division, which had 18 contestants, was won by Ben Stein of East Berlin. The 18-year-old contestant is a member of the Adams County 4-H Beef Club. Each division winner received a leather banner and a \$50 savings bond sponsored by various beef

producers. The Skillathon provided challenging and learn-by-doing activities to help in the development of project skills of junior cattlemen. Activities were mini-learning stations that had the participants test their knowledge and ability to perform a specific task. The eight competition stations were identifying beef breeds, identifying feeds, equipment identification, beef cut identification and primal location, beef food safety, admi-

nistering animal health medication, EPD evaluation, and overall beef industry knowledge. Facilitators at each station allowed the participants to test their own knowledge and abilities before providing any guidance in completing the tasks. The stations provided the contestants a chance to practice decision-making, speaking before others, and the opportunity to become more comfortable communicating with adults.

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