

Dairy Scholarships Fund College Educations

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Broad knowledge of the dairy industry has generated financial rewards for three top winners of the All-American Dairy Show's junior dairyman management contest.

Winners of the management contest for the past three years have each been awarded \$500 scholarships to further their education. Colleen Kretzing, Loysville, Pa. and Robert Wilson and Shannon Lacy, both of Dansville, N.Y., have earmarked their dairy management scholarship funds toward college studies in dairying and related agricultural fields.

Their message to contestants is that the competition at the Harrisburg show is the most comprehensive and thorough of such youth dairy learning activities held across the region.

"It's a really good contest," said 1993 winner Shannon Lacy, who has traveled from Allegheny County, New York, five times to participate. "The contest has a little of everything and is set up in stations with topics that most don't cover, like feeds and meats identification. Having an interview for the finalists is also different; in most contests you don't have to be able to present yourself in front of people.

"And because the Junior Dairy Management Contest is held in conjunction with the All-American, it gives us an opportunity to see the shows and the cattle as well," said Lacy. The 17-year-old Lacy will be a senior year at Canaseraga Central High School and

plans to pursue veterinary studies, using his \$500 scholarship award toward college tuition or books.

Lacy's Allegheny County 4-H dairy teammate Robert Wilson claimed top honors in the 1991 runoffs, a repeat performance of his 1990 win, before the scholarship award was started.

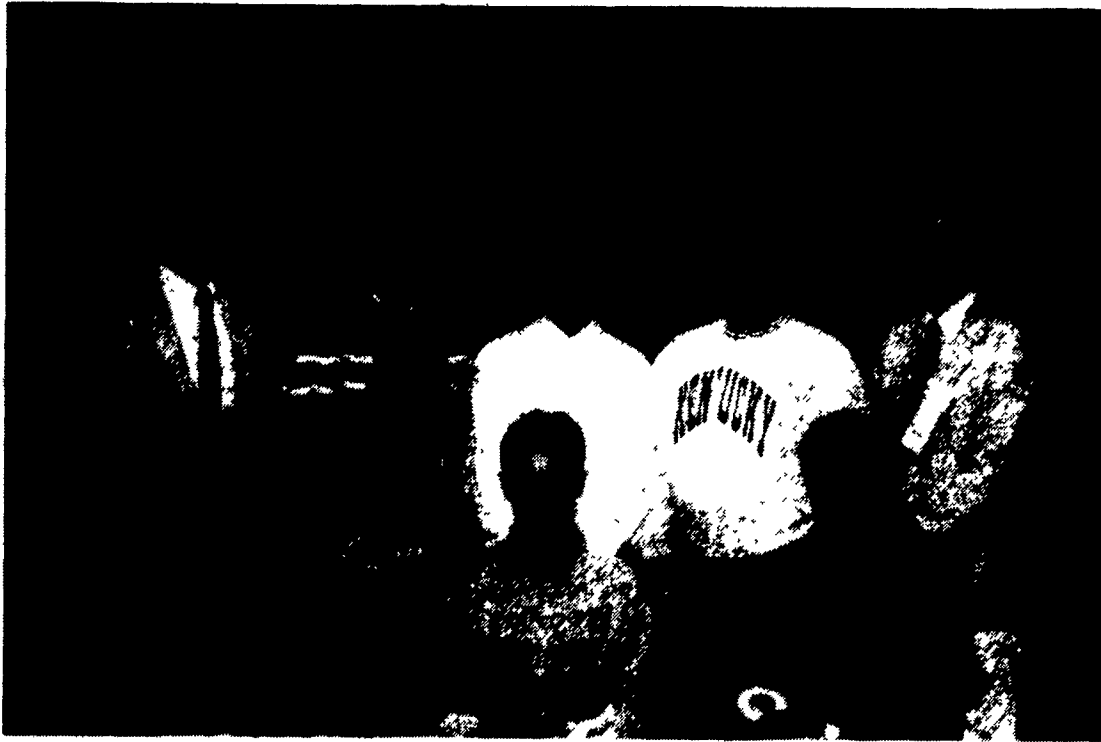
"The scholarship has helped in financing my education," said the 19-year-old Wilson, a sophomore majoring in animal science at the University of Illinois. "My goal is to get into vet school and become a large animal veterinarian, especially working with dairy cattle."

Colleen Kretzing, the 1992 winner, put her use of the scholarship award on hold for a year, to participate in an agriculture student foreign exchange program to Germany. One of 24 students participating in the Bundespag Exchange Program, Colleen has been studying dairy science at a German college, along with working on a dairy farm. She plans to enter Penn State this fall, pursuing a dairy science degree.

"This is the best contest that is nationally held," said Donna Wilson, coach of the Allegheny County, New York, 4-H team that travels each year to participate in the Harrisburg All-American youth program.

"Well-run, it hits every aspect of dairy management and is always improving and changing. The sponsors are terrific to work with.

"Participants have an edge over others when they apply to agriculture schools, because of the com-



High individuals, front left to right, Natalie Welch, 2nd; Shannon Lacy, 1st; and Jason Baughman, 3rd; back, left to right, Jeff Tyson, Church & Dwight Co.; Joel Mills, 4th; Brian Wilson, 5th; Andy Myers, 6th; Dan Hughes, Pfizer, Inc.

prehensive studying they must do for the Dairy Management contest. And the interview picks out the cream of the contestants," Wilson said.

"It's a tough contest, but participants will learn more from it," said Walter Wurster, Chester County extension agent who serves as contest superintendent. "It focuses on the skills an individual going into the dairy business would need. A person who does well will have a pretty good understanding of the industry."

Wurster says the 1994 contest will be a shorter one, comprised of seven 12-minute stations of participation rather than the ten 15-minute stations of prior years.

Dr. Carl Brown, chairman of the junior dairy management contest since its inception, sees it as a bridge between events like cattle showing and dairy bowl competition.

"It was developed to help keep youth more interested and involved at the All-American and as an alternative to dairy judging," said

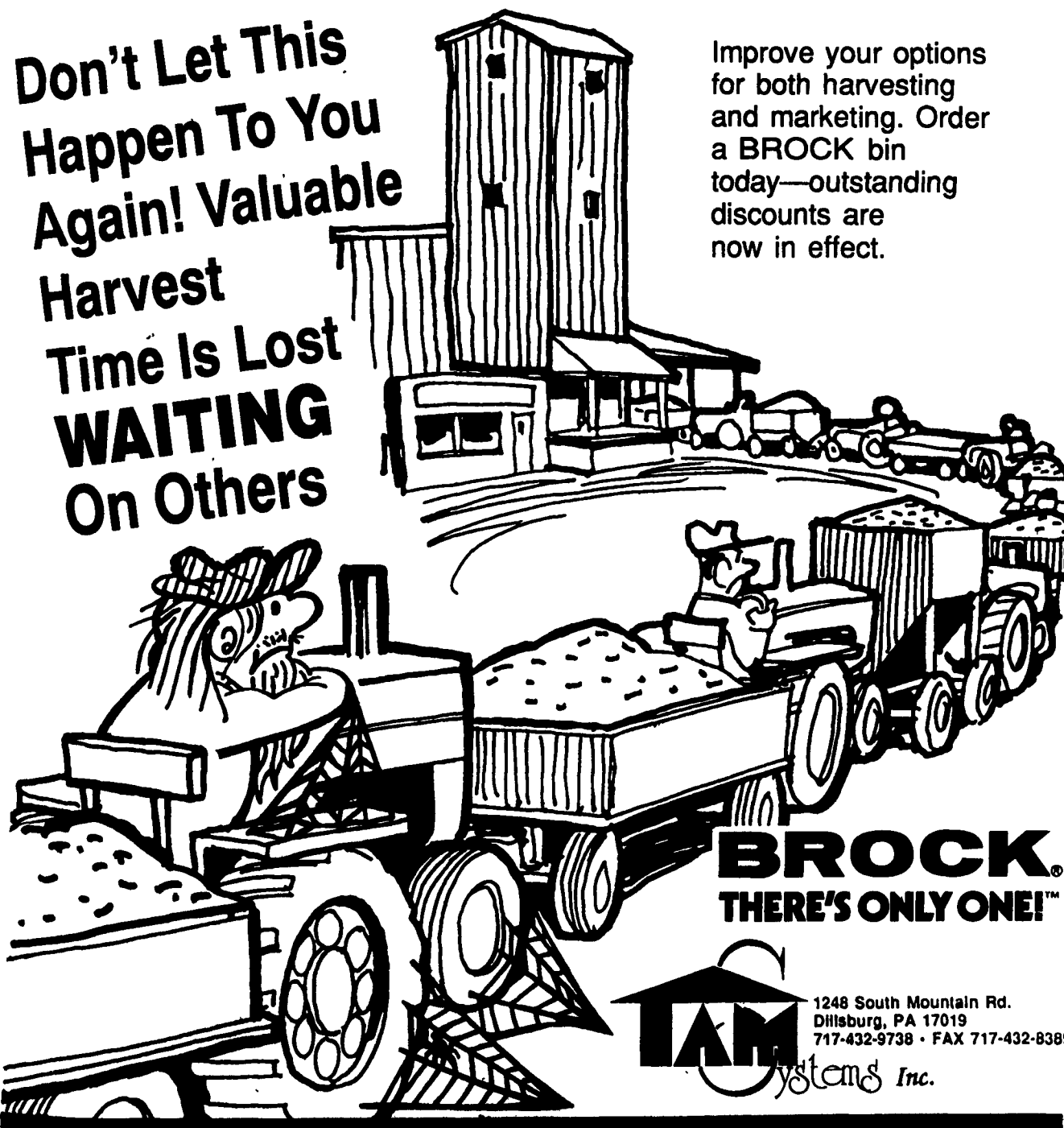
Dr. Brown. "In addition to the top scholarship, there are numerous other cash premiums as well as trophies and plaques provided by our sponsors Church & Dwight Company and Pfizer, Inc."

Dairy management classes include heifer judging, linear trait evaluation, meats and forage/grain identifications, milk sanitation and quality, dry cow management and knowledge of current issues in the dairy industry. Premiums and ribbons will be awarded to the top ten 4-H and FFA teams and top ten individuals, with plaques to the top winner in team and individual competition.

The 1994 Junior Dairy Management Contest will be held September 27, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. The youth activity is part of the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show, which will run September 26 through 29 at the Farm Show Complex.

For additional information, contact Charles A. Itle, manager, Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408, (717) 787-2905.

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