

Schwartzbecks Find Peace

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Cher-Red, a four and a half-year-old cow he had purchased just weeks before! The next day, a Peace and Plenty bred, born and home-raised cow, Peace and Plenty March Lexine, beat out 244 cows to win the title of Grand Champion at the 24th annual Maryland State Holstein Show. The Schwartzbecks also won three of the cow classes with home-bred animals as well as the three best females class. "Lexine" went on to win the Best Maryland Bred and Owned animal helping Peace and Plenty farm take the award for Premier Breeder and Exhibitor for the second year in a row. Nona and Joe Schwartzbeck sure have come a long way since that county fair!

Mrs. Schwartzbeck remembers when it wasn't so good. When they purchased their Union Bridge Farm 25 years ago they had grade Holsteins. "We just couldn't afford anything else back then. I remember a show where we took six cows and ended with five in last place," Mrs. Schwartzbeck recalls with a chuckle. "It wasn't handed to us. We have worked at this for a long time."

Now Peace and Plenty farm has about 260 head of cattle, 160 adult bovines and about 100 head of young stock. Now, all of their Holsteins are registered. Currently Joe and Gus are milking about 120 cows twice daily in their double four herringbone parlor. Shane stays busy with his own business,

Shane Fence.

"The day starts at about 3:30 a.m.," says Mrs. Schwartzbeck. "with milking and then feeding." It takes about two and a half hours to milk, and "no two days are alike!"

On the hottest days of summer, while waiting to be milked and during feeding the cows are cooled by a sprinkler system. They are fed twice a day. Their total mixed ration, (TMR) consists of alfalfa haylage, corn silage, soy bean meal, whole roasted soy beans and

shelled corn.

The Schwartzbecks take time from operating their full-scale dairy farm to attend about three shows per year — the Maryland Holstein Show, the District Field Day in Howard County and the Maryland State Fair. "If we have a good year we take a few cows up to Harrisburg," Mrs. Schwartzbeck said. "We took a cow to Madison once, too. Now that is a show!" Mrs. Schwartzbeck adds that she hopes "Lexine" gets them to Madison.

"The best thing about this is that we do it together," she says, noting that three generations of Schwartzbecks attended the Maryland State Holstein Show this year. She worries about farming in the future. "There are just too many government regulations. You feel like you are just treading water." Mrs. Schwartzbeck looks fondly upon her three grandchildren, David, Aubrey, and Austin, and expresses her wish for the future. "I just hope the farming families can survive."



"You want a drink of milk?" Austin asked.



Umm, mm, good!



Two of Nona and Joe Schwartzbeck's grandchildren, Aubrey and Austin, help at calf feeding time.



Gus Schwartzbeck: Milk, it does a body good!



Nona Schwartzbeck feeds the helpers.

Jackpot Show In York

YORK (York Co.) — There is still time to enter your steers, barrows, and lambs in the Keystone National Rib Cookoff and Music Fest Jackpot Show scheduled for Saturday, July 30 at the York Fairgrounds.

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Livestock Association, the Jackpot Show for youth ages 8-19 is part of a four-day Rib and Music Fundraiser to support the Keystone International Livestock Exposition.

Jackpot prizes to be awarded include \$500 for the champion steer, \$350 for the champion barrow,

and \$250 for the champion lamb. A supreme champion banner will be bestowed upon the best animal among these champions.

Exhibitors and their families can also enjoy the many activities of the rib cookoff, including a craft show, delicious barbecued ribs, strolling clowns, and a petting barnyard. Music entertainment for Saturday headlines Jefferson Starship, Sharks, Flying Colors, and Once Fish.

For entry information, contact Cathy Stewart, (717) 274-6911. Entries can be made up to the time of weigh-in on show day.