

Brant Siblings Prepare Steers For Farm Show

GAY N. BROWNLEE
Somerset Co. Correspondent
ROCKWOOD (Somerset Co.)
— The loud buzz of his electric blower cut through the quiet of a peaceful Saturday afternoon as 13-year old Jesse Brant used the man-made machine to ruffle the wet coat of his black steer, Bubba.

A green water hose lay stretched and twisted on the ground nearby, a seeming indication that Bubba's most recent business had been a good shampoo job.

Bubba is a Maine Anjou cross. Over by the three-sided, open-

ended barn, another, larger steer stood tethered. Thick and muscular, the Chi Angus cross, named Twin, bore an underlying impatience, although he stayed quiet.

His owner is 14-year-old Jill Brant, Jesse's sister.

With the Pennsylvania Farm Show in view, the sister-and-brother team have been prepping and priming their steers for the best exhibition possible in the show arena.

Diet, exercise, grooming and tender, loving care, are three very important ingredients in having good steers to show, they said.



Jesse Brant, Rockwood, Somerset County, is rinsing and blowing his steer, Bubba, who will be shown at the Farm Show. The Maine Anjou cross was purchased from Freddie Weaver, Lancaster County.



Jill Brant and her brother, Jesse, said they would love to show their goats, in addition to their steers, at the Farm Show each year, but can't because of scheduling. They have 20 goats in three breeds — Saanen, Nubian, and La Mancha. When the goats are producing milk, they have to milk them before going to school.

The steer's hair is also important, said their father, Dave Brant. "We turn the steers out at night to grow hair," he said, "because cool weather aids hair growth."

Somerset County, being mountainous, is among the cooler areas of Pennsylvania. And, as Brant mentioned, Mount Davis isn't far from their home — at least, not the way the crow flies.

Mount Davis, at 3,213 feet above sea level, is the state's highest point. Knowing that, it seems reasonable to expect prevailing

cooler temperatures on most nights, so the hair growing on Twin and Bubba ought to be just dandy by Farm Show week.

The kids said they're quite comfortable showing their steers at the big, annual event. This will be their third year. "It's pretty much like any other show," they said, but added they have made friends who are always fun to see and exchange news with.

"We always stay in a motel with dad, but this year we may stay with some relatives," they

said.

To go to the Farm Show is fun, you get out of school, was Jesse's typical, teenaged observation.

"The Farm Show is an opportunity I never had as a kid," said Dave, who was in FFA during his teens.

It's disappointing that their mother; Carol Sue, can't support the kids at the Farm Show in person. Besides taking care of their brother, Andrew, there are too many responsibilities at home for

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