

Hundreds Compete In Spring Judging Contest

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — More than 300 4-H and FFA youth from across the commonwealth converged on Penn State's University Park Campus recently to compete in the annual Spring Livestock Judging Contest that marks the beginning of the summer show and livestock judging season.

If attendance was any indication, then fair skies probably had as much influence on event's success as any other single factor.

Contestants gathered at Penn State's Ag Arena were required to place six classes, including crossbred heifers, Simmental heifers, Dorset yearling ewes, Dorset fall ewe lambs, Duroc barrows,

and Yorkshire barrows. More than 25 teams and 69 individuals competed in the junior advanced division, which included placing the six classes of livestock and delivering three sets of oral reasons to official judges.

The largest group of contestants were the junior beginners, where 237 individuals representing 76 teams made the 1995 contest the largest in recent years. Results of the contest are listed here.

This year's contest was under the direction of Daryl Bomgardner (senior, dairy and animal science, Annville) and Keith Bryan, instructor and coach of the Penn State Livestock Judging Team.

Members of the 1994 Penn State

Livestock Judging Team (all current or former students in Dairy and Animal Science) served as officials for the contest. Swine officials were Gary Schick (senior, Oil City) and Nikki Willwert (senior, Red Lion); sheep officials were Andy McIntire (1994, White Post, Va.) and Jason Ahola (senior, Woodstock, Conn.); and beef officials were Ryan Mattocks (senior, Meadville) and Tom Gibney (1994, Colora, Md.).

Also, coaches of 4-H teams served as officials for the collegiate professional division that included students competing for a place on the 1995 Penn State Livestock Judging Team that will compete in one more contest dur-

ing spring semester and another four in the fall.

Although the primary purpose of this annual contest is to provide an opportunity for young people to enhance their ability to evaluate livestock, it also serves as a forum to draw young people from across the commonwealth to Penn State's University Park Campus to view the quality livestock that are produced at the land-grant institution and to encourage them to consider

Penn State in their future educational plans.

The spring event also kicks off a busy month of activities for members of the Penn State Block and Bridle Club. After the contest, students prepared bulls for the Pennsylvania Meat Animal Evaluation Center's Performance-Tested Bull Sale. In addition, the club conducted their annual Little International Livestock Exposition on Saturday, April 8, also at the Ag Arena.

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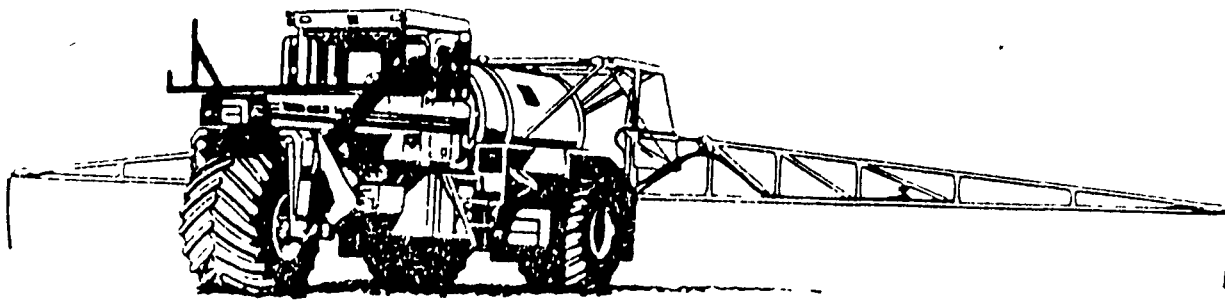
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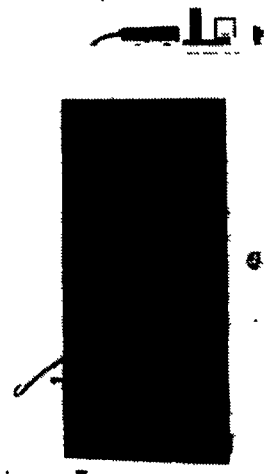
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