

Lycoming County Colored Breeds Dairy Show Held

HUGHESVILLE (Lycoming Co.) — The Lycoming County Colored Breeds Dairy Show was held last month at the fairground with Tom Aerosmith, Peach Bottom serving as judge.

In the Ayrshire breed, Roberta Fogleman, Muncy had the grand champion and Mun-Ayr Farm, Muncy had the reserve grand champion.

In the Brown Swiss show, Alicia Wolfe, Riverside had both the grand champion, and the reserve grand champion.

VanKuren Farm, Montrose had the grand champion Guernsey, and Rebecca Dugan, Watsonstown, had the reserve grand champion.

Both the grand champion and the reserve grand champion in the Jersey breed was shown by J. Craig and Susan Wicker, Center Hall.

And Melissa Wolfe, Riverside, had both champions in the Milking Shorthorn breed.

The list of winners and photographs were supplied by William Messersmith, Lycoming County extension director.



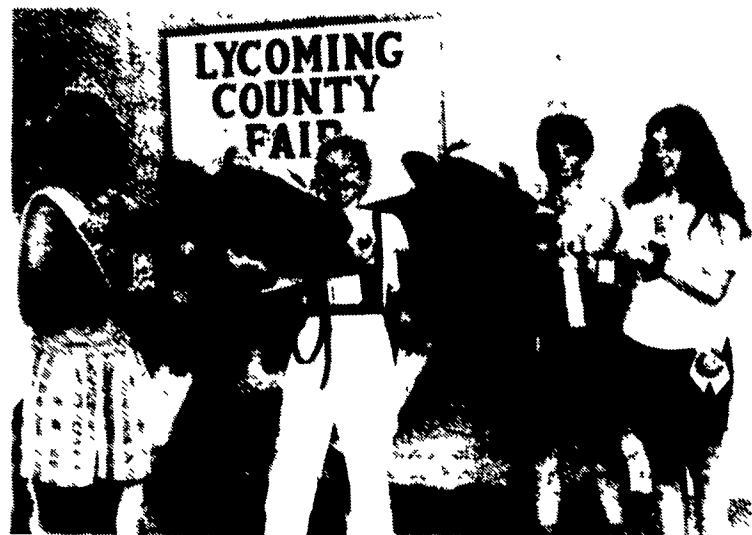
Champion Jerseys. From left, Stephanie Ulmer, county dairy maid; Craig Wicker; Mandy VanKuran; and Melissa Daly.



Champion Brown Swiss. From left, Yvonne Peterman, Lycoming County dairy princess; Alicia and Art Wolfe; and Melissa Daly, Lycoming County dairy maid.



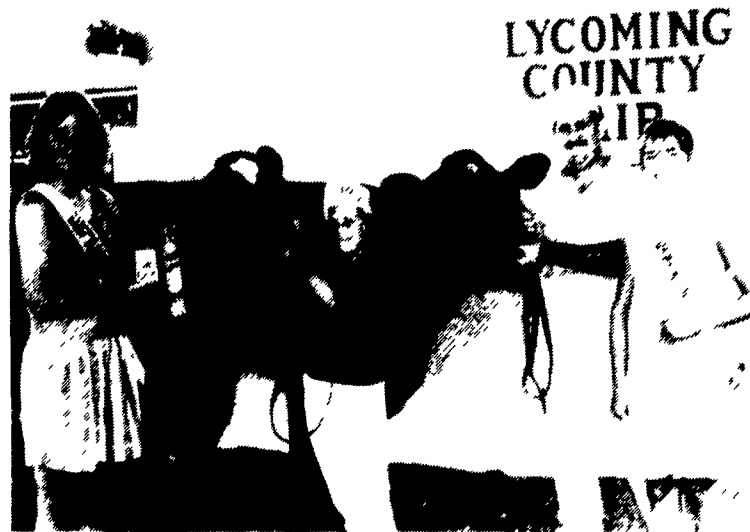
Craig Wicker, Four Springs Farm, won both the premier breeder and premier exhibitor awards for the colored breeds show. Judge Tom Arrowsmith makes the presentation



Champion Ayrshires. From left, Yvonne Peterman, county dairy princess; Roberta and Ellen Fogleman; and Melissa Daly, county dairy maid.



Champion Guernseys. From left, Melissa Daly, Lycoming County dairy maid; Steve and Mandy VanKuran; Rebecca Dugan; and Stephanie Ulmer, Lycoming County dairy maid.



Milking Shorthorn champions. From left, Yvonne Peterman, Lycoming dairy princess; Melissa and Art Wolfe; and Stephanie Ulmer, county dairy maid.

THE BUSINESS SIDE OF DAIRY FARMING
 A PERSPECTIVE FROM THE
Plain Community

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 adapted to any dairy farmer's management style or circumstances.

The topics covered in these articles will include cow management (reproduction, feeding, herd health, cow comfort, available "tools"), financial planning, and crop management. The information on these topics will be related to what is happening on the farm at the time the articles appear so that farmers can put this information to use right away.

Forage Planning

August already. Time to think about the forage needs for the coming year to decide how much corn to pick and how much to put in for silage. Let's look at the numbers—how many animals we will have, how much we will need to feed them, and what the costs will be to buy different types of feed instead of using what we raised.

First, we'll figure out how much hay and corn silage we will need until the next harvest.

We add at least 5 percent extra feed to the totals because it works better to have forage left over than not to have enough. Our experience has been that if you don't plan ahead well enough, we run out of feed just before harvest (hay in May and silage in August) when the prices are high and supply is short. Then we end up paying more for the forage and don't

have much quality to choose from. Another mistake we have made is to feed green corn silage, which throws the cows off feed by upsetting their rumen and, therefore, they give less milk.

The next step in forage planning is to figure out the least expensive way to provide the feed needed for the coming year. Our feed man tells us that with the price of hay it usually is in the spring (\$110/ton), and the price of soybean meal where it is lately (\$220/ton), it would be cheaper to feed more corn silage than to buy hay.

Also, we need to keep in mind our average yield for corn silage

are about 20 tons per acre, 4 tons per acre for ear corn, and 3.8 tons per acre for alfalfa.

From these figures, it looks like we should have enough acres planted for hay and corn silage and still have three acres of corn left to pick. Now let's compare the cost of buying ear corn to buying corn silage. We could buy ear corn at \$80/ton and silage at \$24/ton delivered to our farm. We will need to buy about six more acres of either ear corn or corn silage to have enough feed for the year with the ration we are using.

•Option #1—Pick corn and buy silage

6 acres X 4 tons per acre = 24 tons @ \$80 per ton = \$1,920

•Option #2—Put corn in for silage

6 acres X 20 tons per acre = 120 tons @ \$24 per ton = \$2,880

The difference is about \$1,000, so we will make the silage instead of picking the corn. We'll need extra storage space, so we will either have to borrow an ag bagger or make a pile, packing it well and

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| HAY | | CORN SILAGE |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 45 Milking Cows | | |
| Lbs. per day | 11.5 | 45 |
| Total for 365 days | 95 tons | 370 tons |
| 30 Heifers | | |
| Lbs. per day | 8 | 20 |
| Total for 180 days | 22 tons | 54 tons |
| 6 Horses | | |
| Lbs. per day | 25 | 0 |
| Total for 250 days | 19 tons | 0 |
| Total Forage Needed, including an extra 5% for overfeeding, etc.: | | |
| | Hay=143 tons | Corn Silage=445 tons |
| Average Yields: | Hay=3.8 tons per acre | Corn Silage=20 tons per acre |
| Acres Need to Harvest: | Hay=38 acres | Corn Silage=22 acres |

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