

Farringtons' Gift Beefs Lancaster 4-H Livestock Program.

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
ELM (Lancaster Co.) — There is a new program for members of the Red Rose 4-H Beef Club. It's called the Polled Hereford Great Opportunity program.

In its essence, the program is a chain letter in reverse — Polled Hereford female animals have been given to club members with the promise from the recipient to give one of the offspring to a new member of the club, or contribute the money from the sale of one of the offspring into a club fund.

It's a program with the real potential to continue for generations the teaching of lessons in values.

It's not a written word, recitation contest, or admonition about what is better to do. Instead, the program has at its heart the only thing that truly teaches values — a demonstration of those values.

Some background is needed.

John and Helen Farrington moved to Lancaster County 27 years ago, having been forced to sell their mountain-top, Poconos-area farm to the government.

The Farringtons took the mandate and found and moved to their current 250-acre Lower Hopewell Farm.

It is located near the northern border of Lancaster County, along the lower reaches of Hammer Creek before it swells into Speedwell Lake, a small Pa. Fish Commission impoundment at the agency's regional office in Elm.

The farm property is rolling and wooded and for years a fishing club has leased private rights to the Hammer Creek from the Farringtons.

Between the lake and the farm, Lancaster County in recent years purchased floodplain to incorporate into its park system.

The soils are heavy with red sandstone and the area is a pocket of historic rurality — though assaulted by some strip development (roadfront farmland subdivided and sold as building lots), some of the old stone homes and tall, thick-trunked trees continue to characterize the iron mining and smelting and forging that built the local economy.

The Farringtons started dairy farming, but due to illness, John said he sold off the herd and replaced them with black cattle. The cow-calf operation grew to about 30 cows. After another health-related incident, the black cattle were sold.

But the couple's two daughters, both involved in FFA and one a former member of the beef club, had seen Polled Herefords at the state Farm Show and wanted those. So the Farringtons bought Polled Herefords.

The Farringtons are also horse enthusiasts and have had horses. Helen has been a 4-H leader in the horse club for years. The farm now focuses on boarding them. The have 25 boarders currently and 41 stalls.

The farm has pastures and exercise areas, and for those desiring to trail ride their boarded horse, there is Pa. Game Commission land nearby.

(Actual wild game on the lands is scarce for many reasons, especially from constant pressure from nonhunting recreationists and highway mortality, but those with horses should avoid riding during deer season.)

There are many trails on the state game land tract — old log-



Six female Polled Herefords, six 4-H beef club members and two generous adults form the core of Red Rose 4-H Beef Club Polled Hereford Great Opportunity Program. John and Helen Farrington, owners of Lower Hopewell Farm, stand with six members of the club, recipients of Polled Herefords

to be used as project animals. In the front, from the left are Hope Long, John Schmidt and Jessica Schmidt. In the back row, from the left, are Jill Hoffines, John Hess and John Boyer.

ging roads and others created through use — that are used by mountain bike riders almost year-round, and horse riders seasonally.

According to John, there really isn't room on the farm for their Polled Hereford cattle, which includes an unusually gentle bull that has been running with the cows and heifers. (A purebred bull they bought from Rep. Shelia Miller, R-Berks County, he's for sale.)

The cattle are also extra work, and John and Helen don't have the extra time.

So, instead of selling the cattle outright and pocketing the money, the Farringtons decided to offer six of the cows and their calves to members of the Red Rose 4-H Beef Club.

On Monday evening, Chester Hughes, Lancaster County extension livestock agent, and six mem-

bers of the Red Rose 4-H Beef Club and their parents met at the farm.

The Farringtons had contacted Hughes earlier and Hughes had contacted members of the beef club to see which members would be interested in accepting the responsibility of raising and caring for the animals for a least a year.

The members who accepted the invitation included Hope Long, daughter of Sam and Vicky Long, New Providence; Jill Hoffines, daughter of Robert and Linda Hoffines, Marietta; John and Jessica Schmidt, son and daughter of Peter and Laurie Schmidt, Drumore; John Hess, son of Robert and Deb Hess, Mt. Joy; and John Boyer, son of Donnie and Karen Boyer, of Elizabethtown.

The generosity of the Farringtons

speaks to their values — they'd rather help start a program that could continue to give, than pocket cash from the animals.

Hughes said that the six members had to understand that they were agreeing to keep the animal at least one year and give an animal, preferably the first calf bred, to the 4-H club.

The decision to give that first animal to a new club member, or sell the animal and donate the proceeds from the sale into the 4-H program so all members would benefit, would be up to the member who received the gift.

For the initial giving, the members each drew a number out of a hat to determine their order for selection. They were given pedigrees, as was available, and time to look over the animals.

One heifer had yet to calve, the

others calved. Two of those calves were male, and the Farringtons' daughters wanted to keep the bull calves. It was decided that those who selected a cow with a bull calf would keep the calf with the cow until the calf was weaned, and then return the calf to the farm.

As far as paying for the health testing of the animals, the club has offered to pay for that. In fact, Hughes offered that any additional costs, such as getting official registration papers, would be borne by the club or individual receiving the animal.

Hughes said he was excited about program and praised the Farringtons, adding that what they did was exceptional and very worthwhile.

John and Helen Farrington meanwhile just smiled at watching the youth select the animals.

Solanco Fair Selects Colored Breed Champions

(Continued from Page A29)

JERSEY

JR CALF: 1.Barbara Richardson
INTERMEDIATE CALF: 1.Melissa Wertz
SUMMER YEARLING: 1.Marc Waltmyer; 2.Melissa Wertz
JR YEARLING: 1.Erica Lloyd; 2.Melissa Wertz
JUNIOR CHAMPION: Erica Lloyd, junior yearling
RESERVE JR CHAMP: Marc Waltmyer, summer yearling
3&4-YEAR-OLD: 1.Erica Lloyd
AGED COW: 1.Erica Lloyd; 2.Erica Lloyd
SENIOR CHAMPION: Erica Lloyd, aged cow
RESERVE SR CHAMPION: Erica Lloyd, 3-year-old

AYRSHIRE

JR CALF: 1.Warren Schmuck; 2.Karen Hambrck; 3.Steven Findley
INTERMEDIATE CALF: 1.Craig Nolan; 2.Henry & Karen Hambrck; 3.Mathew Kemper
SENIOR CALF: 1.Rob Wentworth; 2.Karen Hambrck
SUMMER YEARLING: 1.Bonnie Wentworth
JUNIOR YEARLING: 1.Rebecca Nolan; 2.Brad Waltmyer, 3.Warren Schmuck
INTERMEDIATE YEARLING: 1.Kevin Nolan
SENIOR YEARLING: 1.Karen Hambrck; 2.Brad Waltmyer
JUNIOR CHAMPION: Rebecca Nolan, junior yearling
RESERVE JR CHAMP: Bonnie Wentworth, summer yearling
DRY COWS: 1.Karen Hambrck; 2.Kenneth Findley; 3.Kenneth Findley
2-YR-OLD: 1.Brad Waltmyer; 2.Rebecca Nolan; 3.Karen Hambrck
3&4-YEAR-OLD: 1.Rob Wentworth; 2.Brad Waltmyer; 3.Kenneth & Kathryn Findley
5-YEAR-OLD: 1.Rob & Bonnie Wentworth;

2.James Findley; 3.Karen Hambrck
SENIOR CHAMPION: Rob & Bonnie Wentworth, aged cow
RESERVE SR CHAMP: Rob Wentworth, 4-year-old
GRAND CHAMPION: Rob & Bonnie Wentworth
RESERVE GRAND CHAMP: Rob Wentworth
JR DIV. CHAMP: Brad Waltmyer
RESERVE JR DIV. CHAMP: Brad Waltmyer

PREMIER EXHIBITOR: James Findley family
PREMIER BREEDER: Rob & Bonnie Wentworth
GET OF SIRE: 1.Karen Hambrck
BEST THREE: 1.Rob & Bonnie Wentworth, 2.James Findley family; 3.Nolan family
DAIRY HERD: 1.Wentworths; 2.Nolans; 3.Findleys

PRODUCE OF DAM: 1.Nolans; 2.Hambrck DAM, DAUGHTER: 1.Wentworths; 2.Hambrck; 3.Hambrcks

SHOWMANSHIP

SENIOR AGES (13, older): 1.Craig Nolan, 2.Erica Lloyd; 3.Kevin Nolan
JUNIOR AGES (12, younger): 1.Brad Waltmyer; 2.Jacob Hushon; 3.Rebecca Nolan



From the left, Robert Wentworth holds the halter of the reserve grand champion Ayrshire of the Solanco Fair, while Bonnie Wentworth holds the halter of her grand champion. Also shown is judge Donald Gable.