

Penn State Livestock Judging Team Wins At Eastern National

TIMONIUM, Md. — On Saturday, Sept. 30, the Penn State Livestock Judging Team made a strong showing here at the Eastern National Livestock Show Collegiate Judging Contest.

The team enjoyed a precontest

workout at the farm of Frank and Julie Feeser (Duroc, Hampshire, and Yorkshire swine) in Taneytown, Md. The Feesers drove before the students four classes of hogs and then provided a delicious noontime meal and the opportunity to view some of their crossbred

and Angus cows and calves.

Team members that represented Penn State's Department of Dairy and Animal Science included Kim Black, senior in dairy and animal science from Tionesta (Forest County); Jay Brehm, senior in

dairy and animal science from Windber (Somerset County); Scott Brown, senior in dairy and animal science from Mill Creek (Huntingdon County); Brian Hrutkay, senior in dairy and animal science from Bentleyville (Washington County); Christopher Kling, senior in dairy and animal science from Hope, N.J.; Brian McAllister, senior in dairy and animal science from Centre Hall (Centre County); Todd Rabenold, senior in dairy and animal science from Kutztown (Berks County); and Jennifer Sweitzer, senior in agricultural business management from Glen Rock (York County).

out the top 10 individuals judging swine finishing fourth (262 points) and seventh (259 points), respectively. Although seven students could judge for each team, only the top five scores counted toward each team's total.

Todd Rabenold, one of Penn State's two alternates, would have finished fifth in swine had he earned enough points to contribute to the team's score.

The sheep judging division was grouped a little more tightly as Brian McAllister (233 points out of 250), Chris Kling (229), and Scott Brown (226) finished first, second, and third, respectively, and Brian Hrutkay claimed seventh (221).

Jay Brehm, the other Penn State alternate, accumulated 227 points and would have finished third in sheep had his total score counted toward the team's total.

Members of the Penn State team garnered six out of the top 10 spots in oral reasons and out-distanced the competition to win oral reasons as a team.

Chris Kling (257 points out of 300), Todd Rabenold (251), Brian McAllister (248), and Scott Brown (247) finished third through sixth, respectively, and Jen Sweitzer (243) and Brian Hrutkay (243) rounded out the top 10 by finishing ninth and tenth, respectively.

As individuals overall in the contest, Chris Kling won by 6 points over the next closest competitor scoring 801 points out of 900 possible. Scott Brown finished second with a score of 795, while Jen Sweitzer (793), Brian McAllister (781) and Brian Hrutkay (773) finished fourth, seventh and ninth, respectively.

Farm Bill Debate Likely To Focus On Trade-Offs

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — With only 2 percent of Americans directly involved in growing the nation's food, upcoming debate over the 1995 Farm Bill is likely to focus on trade-offs among the concerns of farmers, consumers, environmentalists and other groups, a Penn State agricultural economist said recently.

"As policy decisions are crafted, compromises will need to be made among the interests of many different people, from farmers to environmental activists," said Dr. Milton Hallberg, professor of agricultural economics in the College of Agricultural Sciences. "Our policies need to accommodate these trade-offs in an economically sound and socially acceptable manner."

Hallberg has co-edited a book about the issues expected to be part of the debate leading up to 1995 U.S. food and agricultural legislation. "Food, Agriculture, and Rural Policy Into the Twenty-First Century: Issues and Trade-Offs," published by Westview Press, offers recent information concerning a wide array of fundamental concerns. The book reviews diverse policy approaches for dealing with these issues and assesses trade-offs among these alternatives.

Debate also is likely over how to best protect the environment while making agricultural production as efficient as possible.

"Food, Agriculture, and Rural Policy Into the Twenty-First Century: Issues and Trade-Offs" was edited by Hallberg; Robert G. F. Spitze, professor of agricultural economics at the University of Illinois; and Daryll Ray, professor of agricultural economics and rural sociology at the University of Tennessee.

"Each chapter focuses on a cur-

rent or emerging public concern that is likely to be a focus of attention in 1995 policy," Hallberg said. "The chapters were written by specialists chosen for their particular expertise from among the top analysts and educators in agricultural economics.

"We hope the book will be a valuable guide for lawmakers, agricultural educators, agricultural and food industry leaders, and interest groups concerned about the future of agriculture in the United States," Hallberg said.

Farmland Preservation

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—Agriculture Secretary Charles C. Brosius has announced the approval of easement purchases for two farms encompassing 518 acres of prime farmland.

"Through this program, quality farmland is protected for future generations," Brosius said.

The Farmland Protection Program was initiated in 1989 with a \$100 million bond issue approved by Pennsylvania voters. The program allows the state and counties to purchase development rights—referred to as easements—to guarantee that farms will remain as agricultural land.

With today's easement purchases, 559 farms in 31 counties will

have joined the program or had easements approved, protecting 69,752 acres. Since Jan. 1, easement purchases have been approved for 9,025 acres on 73 farms in 24 counties.

Following are the two properties approved, including owner, township, acreage and purchase cost.

Blair County—James L. and Jay Keller, Tyrone Township, 299 acres, \$179,224.

Lancaster County—J. Harold and Ruby Y. Esbenshade, Conoy Township, 219 acres, \$409,640.

"Lawmakers must balance budget constraints with financial assistance for agriculture and rural residents," Hallberg said. "They'll also need to find middle ground between international and national priorities for agriculture, between food costs and food safety, and between expanding and reducing research and extension education programs."

Hallberg recently returned from an extended stay in Australia, where he heard students and farmers alike express concerns about U.S. agricultural policies—especially export policies—affecting Australian agriculture.

"This visit highlighted some international problems and issues facing U.S. agricultural policymakers as new policy for the food and agricultural sector is formed," Hallberg said.

Other issues likely to be on the table include U.S. agriculture in a global setting; structural changes in agriculture; food safety and food assistance; trade agreements and policies; commodity policy and farm income support; marketing control and risk management; rural programs; and agricultural research and education.

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