

# Livestock Banquet Reveals 'Gems' Of Lancaster County

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MOUNT JOY (Lancaster Co.)

— The past year provided more than just banners or trophies for several 4-H livestock exhibitors in Lancaster County.

According to Chet Hughes, agent and 4-H leader, 1995 was a rare gem, and early 1996 glowed bright as well.

It was a ruby of a year, because several youth grand championships were won at the state Farm Show in January. And it was a gem, "for Lancaster County 4-H to represent Pennsylvania at the National Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, Kentucky," said Hughes to more than 200 4-H supporters and friends at the Country Table Restaurant on Thursday night.

Hughes thanked those attending "for the overwhelming support of those who contributed," he said, to not only the county 4-H groups in general, but to the judging team fund.

At the banquet, Amy Hoffines won the coveted 1995 Shepherd of the Year. Amy, 17, daughter of Bob and Linda Hoffines, Marietta, said her family, including sister Jill and brother Peter and her mom and dad "provided the foundation for this award." She said her participation in 4-H during nine years has allowed her to meet people and make a lot of friends.

Amy, a senior at Donegal High School, said she has been accepted in a two-year program at Central Penn Business School in Summerdale. Also, Amy was honored with the Jason L. Weaver Memorial Leadership Award at the banquet.

Lisa Reiff, 18, daughter of Lloyd and Laura Reiff, Strasburg, won the Woolies Club Scholarship honor, a \$250 award. She plans to use the scholarship to study accounting at the Berks campus of Penn State.

Lisa, champion livestock team member, said she hopes to begin a career that is associated with agriculture. Also, her long-range



Record book winners at the banquet were, front row, from left, Bobbi Bentzel, Woolies Club, junior division and Hope Long, beef club record book, junior division. Back, from left, Jessica Stoltzfus, beef club, senior division and Sara Strickler, Woolies Club, senior division.

plans, she said, are to be a livestock judging coach.

Sara Strickler, 17, daughter of Sam and Dottie Strickler, Quarryville, was honored with the Novice Shepherd Award at the 4-H banquet. The Solanco High School junior, in her second year of 4-H, intends to attend college, perhaps Delaware Valley, to study animal science.

The Red Rose 4-H Rookie Award was presented to 10-year-old Hope Long, daughter of Sam and Vickie Long, New Providence. The New Providence 5th grader, in the second year of 4-H, won the grand champion steer at the Solanco Fair.

Champion record book, senior division in the beef club, went to Jessica Stoltzfus. Best beef record book, junior division, went to Hope Long.

Champion record book, senior

division in the Woolies Club, went to Sara Strickler. Best Woolies Club record book, junior division, went to Bobbi Bentzel.

The following 4-H club members were honored:

#### BEEF AWARD

County 4-H Beef Roundup  
Grand Champion Steer: Casey High;  
Reserve Champion Steer: Hope Long;  
Champion Showman: Dean Livengood;  
Reserve Champion Showman: Jill Hoffines;  
Grand Champion Heifer: Casey High;  
Reserve Champion Heifer: Jill Hoffines;  
Showmanship Winners: Dale Livengood,  
Dean Livengood, John Hess, Rodney Garber.

#### Pennsylvania Farm Show (1996)

Grand Champion Steer: Casey High;  
Crossbred Class Winner: Denise Bollinger;  
Reserve Lightweight Angus Steer: Delvin Kropf, Jr. Beef Showmanship Winner: Hope Long.

#### Other Awards

Best Beef Record Book Senior: Jessica Stoltzfus; Best Beef Record Book Junior: Hope Long; Red Rose Beef Club Presidents Award: Dale Livengood; Red Rose 4-H Rookie Award: Hope Long; Jason L. Weaver Memorial Leadership Award: Amy Hoffines.



Honored at the annual Lancaster County 4-H Livestock Banquet on Thursday night were, front left, Hope Long, Red Rose 4-H Rookie Award and Lisa Reiff, Woolies Club scholarship. Back, from left, Sara Strickler, Novice Shepherd Award and Amy Hoffines, 1995 Shepherd of the Year.

#### SHEEP AWARDS

County 4-H Sheep Roundup  
Champion Market Lamb: Lisa Reiff;  
Reserve Champion Market Lamb: Jason Stoltzfus; Champion Bred & Owned Market Lamb: Jason Stoltzfus; Supreme Champion Ewe: Jill Hoffines; Champion Bred & Owned Ewe: Jessica Schmidt; Champion Novice Showman: Katye Allen; Champion Showman: Lisa Reiff; Reserve Champion Showman: Travis Donough; Sr. 4-H Fair Lead Line: Kathy Musser, Jr. 4-H Fair Lead Line: Jessica Schmidt.

#### Pennsylvania Farm Show (1996)

Grand Champion Market Lamb: Lisa Reiff;  
Champion Carcass Lamb: Jessica Stoltzfus;

Reserve Champion Light-Weight Lamb: Jessica Stoltzfus.

#### Other Awards

Woolies Club President Award: Keith Bollinger; Best Woolies Club Record Book: Bobbi Bentzel; Best Woolies Club Record Book: Sara Strickler; Top "5" Junior Record Books: Loren Hershey, Allison Hughes, Amy Strickler, Tiffany Dean; Top "5" Senior Records Books: Gerald Boyd, Sara Boyd, Jessica Schmidt, John Schmidt; Senior Ladies Lead Line: Jessica Stoltzfus; Junior Ladies Lead Line: Laura Newcomer; Novice Shepherd Award: Sara Strickler; 1994 Shepherd of the Year: Jason Stoltzfus; 1995 Shepherd of the Year: Amy Hoffines; Woolies Club Scholarship: Lisa Reiff.

## Holstein USA Offers Computer Link Service

BRATTLEBORO, Vt.—The Holstein Association's Gateway system provides a vital computer-to-computer information link between the Association and outside individuals and firms.

By using the Gateway, they can use their computer to access ancestry, performance, and genetic data directly from the Association's computer files.

A long-time user of the Gateway system for obtaining Holstein information is Jamie Bledsoe, general manager of Golden Genes, Inc., in Riverdale, Calif. He was one of the original pilot users, noting "from the day it opened up we were on it."

Bledsoe said he buys bulls from all over the country, and does a large volume of export business as well. The Gateway allows him to update pedigrees and look for progeny when determining whether to buy an animal or not.

Gateway users can "hook-up" to the Association's computer by modem to access performance, genetic and ancestry information on specific animals. The system also allows the user to retrieve performance and genetic information on the sire, dam and offspring of each animal.

"We use it every day," Bledsoe said. "We use it to help update records, and locate cattle we want

to purchase. From there, we can transfer information when we're marketing heifers or embryos. Later on, when we have sales or ship cattle, we can buy the pedigrees we need. It saves us money on buying pedigrees we don't use."

Bledsoe also said by using Gateway he can identify bulls out of the top cows in the country that they are interested in using sons of, and put that information in the bull's files.

"For us, because we do a lot of marketing, it's a necessity," he said. Along with RuAnn Dairy, Golden Genes merchandises about 2,000 Holstein males and females each year, both internationally and domestically. They also buy about 50 bulls a year for progeny testing.

A one-time enrollment fee of \$25 includes a user manual and Association staff support for utilizing the system. User fees are charged on a per-animal, per-screen basis, as well as a computer/connect cost and a cost-per-minute phone charge.

Mary Coburn, of CharMar-Vu Catalogs, uses the Gateway to "fill in the blanks" when she is producing sale catalogs.

"Sometimes we get information on cattle that is incomplete," she said. "We might have a cow's

name and number, but no further information about the animal. If we can't get the performance information from the owner, we can go on Gateway, look up the cow and get her daughters, and fill in the incomplete information."

Coburn also noted that sometimes late sale entries may need additional information if pedigrees have already been ordered on the rest of the animals.

"The last-minute entries may not have a current pedigree, so we can look up the information for the catalog," she said. "Gateway doesn't replace pedigrees, but it provides the information we need. Sometimes it's surprising how little information comes in about an animal."

She said she has been using the Gateway system since it first became available, and was an early pilot user. As a Macintosh user, it was important to ensure the Gateway worked with all computer systems.

Coburn said she also uses the Gateway to look up information when designing advertisements for their farm, Aztec Dairy in Montezuma, Ga.

A relatively new user to the Gateway is Terry Speer, data processing manager at Michigan DHIA Inc., in Lansing, Mich. They first used the system about six months ago, to look up missing identification data.

"We were very satisfied," Speer said. "We were looking for progeny, and we could look up the dam

and her daughters."

The system allowed him to look up unanswered questions about animals' identification. "If we had a question, we could look it up easily using Gateway," he said. "Keeping up with identification is a never-ending battle, and this was a quick way to look it up. We were very happy with the results."

A new Gateway system will be implemented with the Holstein Association's new computer in mid-year. In addition to being available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the system will be more user-friendly.

For more details about getting "on-line" with the Holstein Association's computer, call (800) 952-5200 and talk with a Member Service Representative.

## Apply For Milk Reassessment

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.)—The United States Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) has announced that the "refundable" assessment will be 10 cents per hundredweight for the period Jan. 1 thru April 30, 1996.

This assessment applies to all milk marketed commercially during this period.

This price reduction is authorized by the Agricultural Act of

1949, as amended by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993.

Refunds are not automatic. Producers must apply to their local Consolidated Farm Service Agency (CFSA) office. In Wayne County, the office is located at 470 Sunrise Avenue, in Honesdale, Pa. at the Agricultural Service Center.

Refund applications for the 1995 assessment are due by March 15, 1996. Producers need

to contact their cooperative or milk handler for the total pounds of milk marketed for 1994 and 1995.

This information must be documented and presented to the Consolidated Farm Service Agency office for verification of eligibility by the producer.

For additional information contact the Wayne County Cooperative Extension by dialing 253-5970, extension 239.