



The Carroll County 4-H Dairy Club Girls team took first place in the Ice Cream Churnoff with their Peach Ice cream. Members of the winning team, shown with Carroll County Farm Queen Tracy Clagett, are, from left: Kelly Myers, Farm Queen Tracy Clagett, Maryland Dairy Princess Christina Harper, Kristin Myers, and Jessica Fritz.

## Ag Days Celebrated At Carrolltown Mall

**KAREN BUTLER**

**Maryland Correspondent**

**ELDERSBURG, Md.** — For the ninth consecutive year, farm groups from Carroll County took over Carrolltown mall for Ag Days. This year's theme was "Carroll County Agriculture — Growing Better Everyday From Generation To Generation." The two-day program is a cooperative venture involving agribusiness and farm organizations from the county, the Maryland State Grange, the Carroll County Cooperative Extension Service, and Carrolltown Mall.

Geared toward the non-farming public, the annual festival features hands-on activities and educational exhibits thoughtfully designed to encourage the general public's understanding of how important agriculture is in their lives. The program provides an opportunity for farm groups to showcase the county's biggest industry in a fun, friendly environment.

Dance performances by the Four County Squares dance group and the Carroll County Cloggers kicked off the festivities on Friday night. Saturday's agenda included a fashion show organized by Fashion Trends 4-H Club, a 4-H Kids On The Block puppet show, the Carroll County 4-H Food and Nutrition Bowl Exhibition, and a children's pedal tractor pull. Highlights also included a farm animal petting zoo, a children's coloring contest, and a Home-made Ice Cream Churnoff contest.

One display offered passersby an opportunity to see and pet champion rabbits exhibited by the Carroll County 4-H Rabbit Club. Jen Wade, a club member who has raised 10 national level grand champions, brought a standard-sized doe which took Best in Show honors at the County Fair, and Best of Breed at the State Fair.

Lawrence Meeks was at Ag Days representing the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board (MGPIB), which collects and invests grain checkoff money in education, promotion, and research. "We're here to teach people about grain products," Meeks said, "and also to educate about the checkoff." He said he had entertained questions from the public ranging from, "Why is the price of bread so high?" to "Why didn't my sweet corn come up last year?"

More than 30 booths were set up by organizations and businesses to answer questions and distribute information. In addition to

the displays, there were also crowd pleasing contests, demonstrations, and children's activities.

Winners of the coloring contest included the following: 3-5 year old category, Alyssa Hale of Millers; 6-9 year old category: Ashley Hale of Millers; and 10-12 year old category: Tammy Thomas of Sykesville. Honorable mentions went to Sabra Bushey of Sykesville and Heather Schmidt of Westminster. Judging the coloring contest was Christine Bell, a seventh grader at New Windsor Middle School.

A Pedal Pull was sponsored by Central Maryland Antique Tractor Club, with Wayne T. Shankle of Jefferson as Master of Ceremonies. Toy tractor prizes awarded for the Pedal Pull were donated by Taneytown Southern States, EZ DUZ IT Super Stock Puller, Reifsnider Vet and Farm Supplies, Finch Services, Jeff Hevner Tractor Repair, Taneytown Auto Parts, Westminster Southern States, Wilkim Holsteins, and Rasche Brothers.

Pedal Pull winners included: 5-6 year olds: 1. Samantha Williams, 2. Bryanna Walls, 3. Justin Kelly; 7-8 year olds: 1. Taylor

Barnes, 2. Brian Rasche, 3. Evan Staley; 9-10 year olds: 1. Steven Cox, 2. Chris Green, 3. Nicolette Null.

In the Ice Cream Churnoff, first place went to the Carroll County 4-H Dairy Club Girls team for their peach ice cream. Team members included Jessica Fritz, Kelly Myers, Kristen Myers, and Maryland Dairy Princess Christina Harper. Taking second place was the Carroll County Pomona Grange entry, "Sure-Good" Strawberry ice cream. Members were John Koller, Henry Koller, Marlene Koller, Cliff Newsome, Mary-Lou Pletcher, and Blair Pletcher. Coming in third were the Carroll County 4-H Dairy Club Boys with their Blackberry ice cream. Team members were Gary Brauning III, Jeff Sutton, Justin Watt, and Zack Hall.

Judges for the Ice Cream Churnoff were Laura Kaminski, field services representative for Maryland Farm Bureau; Scott Rankin, assistant professor and dairy processing extension specialists at the University of Maryland, and Karen Butler, Lancaster Farming Correspondent.



Jen Wade, an 8-year member of the Carroll County 4-H Rabbit Club, holds her Best of Breed Standard — sized Rex Junior Doe. Standing with Jen is Club member Jessie DeLuca.

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