

## Strawberry Roundup Seeds Investments For Future Entrepreneurs

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Lancaster Farming Staff

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — By looking at the perfectly uniform strawberries Jeffrey Erb picked at 5 a.m. on Wednesday morning, no one would suspect that the berries had endured recent frost, cold, pelting rain, and hail.

The surprised 11-year-old pocketed \$210 for producing the best looking berries in time for the annual 4-H Strawberry Festival sponsored by the Lancaster Rotary.

High bidder for the prize berries was S.G. "Bud" Fletcher, president of Lancaster Electric Incorporated.

A staunch supporter of encouraging young entrepreneurs to develop good business sense, Fletcher had bid at the annual roundup in previous years but this was the first time he took home the grand champion berries.

Fletcher planned to share the two-quarts of berries with his nine grandchildren. "Plain strawberries and cream — you can't get any better than that," Fletcher said.

Jeffrey's 14-year-old sister Diana won the reserve placing and \$100 from Calvin High, senior vice president of High Industries.

"My wife loves them," High said of his decision to take home berries instead of flowers for his

wife. He hoped to eat the berries in strawberry shortcake.

Diana had been the grand champion winner two years in a row and was happy that her brother topped her this year.

The brother and sister duo said that they each have 100 Earli-glo plants, which they keep separately. They are the children of James and Romaine Erb of Neffsville.

Twenty 4-H'ers participated in this year's Strawberry Roundup. Dr. Zoann Parker, 4-H extension agent, said that the roundup date is set six weeks in advance. The unusually cool spring produced some anxiety in 4-H'ers who feared the strawberries would not be ripe in time for competition. In spite of the weather, Parker said, "their projects tuned out to be fairly successful."

To encourage good business practices, participants must keep detailed records and write a story about care-taking efforts. Because berries are not harvested the first year the strawberries are planted, the Rotary Club encourages 4-H'ers efforts by donating \$150 in prize money for the record books.

After the champion and reserve berries were sold, auctioneer Harold Keller continued the bidding with berries bringing between \$30 and \$55 for 2-quarts.



Berries raised by siblings Jeffrey and Diana Erb won the grand and reserve champion ribbons respectively at the Lancaster Rotary Club Strawberry Roundup held on Wednesday. S.G. "Bud" Fletcher, right, paid \$210 for Jeff's champion berries while Calvin High paid \$100 for Diana's berries. Auctioneer Harold Keller stands in the center.

Other placings are as follows: 3. Hoover, 9. Melissa Holloway, 10. Megan Holloway, 16. Stephen Lee Ressler, 4. Jimmy Mullen, 5. Kara Shenk, 11. Emily Mininger, Leaman, 17. Derek Stoner, 18. Cate McMahon, 6. Amy McMahon, 12. Zack Mininger, 13. Karly Matthew Greiner, 19. Lynn Ressler, and 20. Heather Crockett, 7. Michelle Brubaker, 8. Andy Bucher, 14. Sarah Saunders, 15.

## Ag Secretary Warns Of Rabies Danger

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture Secretary Charles C. Brosius warned Pennsylvanians about the need to immunize their pets for rabies.

"As the weather gets warmer, Pennsylvanians and their pets will be spending more time outdoors, increasing the danger of rabies exposure," Brosius said. "It is imperative that people get their pets immunized."

Last year, 418 positive cases of rabies were reported across the commonwealth.

Pennsylvania law requires all dogs and household cats over three months of age to be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian. Owners must also ensure that their pet is vaccinated as needed throughout its life. Those who do not comply not only run the increased risk of rabies exposure, but could be assessed a \$300 fine for each day they are in violation of the law.

"Rabies is a serious disease," said Brosius. "By simply getting our pets vaccinated, we can great-

ly reduce the chances of exposure to this deadly disease."

He cautioned against contact with wild or domesticated animals that are exhibiting unusual or aggressive behavior.

Rabies is a viral disease primarily contracted from the saliva of an infected animal. People bitten by an animal should immediately wash the wound with soap and water.

If an individual believes either they or their pet have come into contact with a rabid animal, they should seek the advice of a physician or veterinarian immediately. Treatment before symptoms develop is usually very successful; however, once the disease develops, it is invariably fatal.

It is also imperative that all dogs be licensed as mandated by law. If a dog has been exposed or has bitten someone, vital information about rabies vaccinations can be traced through the number on their tags. Licenses can be obtained through the county treasurer's office.

## National FFA

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — "National FFA Online," located at <http://www.ffa.org>, provides members, advisers, and other Internet users information about programs and services offered through the National FFA Organization, the agricultural education organization for students.

"The Internet allows us to provide immediate information and resources to our members and advisers, and to other people interested in agricultural education and youth organizations," said Bill Stagg, FFA director of communications. "We estimate that about 75 percent of FFA chapters have Internet access, with more going online daily. Many FFA advisers are using the Internet in their

classrooms. Our site augments their lessons by providing agricultural education and FFA materials in a format that intrigues and engages students."

National FFA Online features FFA information, a biweekly column by the national FFA officers, online versions of FFA publications, listings of international travel opportunities, links to FFA chapter and state homepages and other agricultural Internet sites, a guest book for visitors, e-mail links to FFA staff, media information, and form and applications to print out, complete and submit.

Eventually, advisers will be able to complete and submit applications online.



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