

## Pennsylvania Percheron Assn. Holds Youth Clinic

**BARBARA L. DARLINGTON**  
Association Reporter

**COLYER (Centre Co.)** — Amber Yearick sat tall in the seat, her blue eyes wide with anticipation. Her carriage was a beautiful black convertible with large maroon wheels, and escorting Amber was a kind gentleman known as Perry. They couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day, with the temperature in the 80s and bright sunshine.

Sounds a little like Cinderella, well close. Amber's escort Perry is a beautiful black Percheron gelding, and Amber was able to fulfill her dream of driving for the first time on Saturday, June 15, 1996, at the Pennsylvania Percheron Association's annual youth clinic. It was a big day for Amber and 23 other children as Perry, Abe, Amos, Barney, and a couple of other Percheron geldings took turns escorting the kids around the ring.

Outside the ring keeping a close eye on this next generation of hopeful Percheron owners and breeders stood the older generation, the leaders. These were the horsemen and women who had once been in the same seat as Amber and her friends. They had been there before, and they had helped many others along the way. Still on this bright sunny day in June, the sparkle in the eyes of the teachers were as bright as those of the students.

Even greater than showing their accomplishments in competition

or at exhibitions, was the feeling of knowing that their knowledge and love for the Percheron breed of horse was being passed on to a generation as excited about these gentle giants as they have always been.

This day was not just a day of learning to drive. It started off on the hill at the home of Pennwoods Percherons, owned by John Cole and his family in Colver. Susan Cole introduced the kids to the Percheron breed by helping them to "get to know their horse." She spoke about the characteristics of the horse from conformation to behavior.

Dr. Nancy Diehl, of Centre Equine Practice, joined the group speaking about general care of the horse from vaccinations to foot care. She answered questions about the effectiveness of different vaccines and demonstrated to the group how to detect hard hoof heads.

The afternoon meant it was time to get out and get some "hands on experience." Rhonda Cole as well as other members of the youth committee pulled out the braiding stands and helped the kids put some of that youthful energy to work. They explained and showed the group how to roll manes and braid tails, then tested the listening skills of participants by giving them the opportunity to practice. According to Amber rolling the mane is the easier of the two tasks, because with the tail there's a lot of "stuff" to do.

Abe Allebach, of Windermere Farms in Spring Mills, showed the kids how to harness a horse. He took the time to explain to them the proper fit of the harness and told them the differences in certain types of harnesses. He also explained some of the problems that can occur if the harness isn't fitted properly. Abe then gave the kids two piles of leather, which when put together would make two harnesses. Then grinning he proudly announced that the test was to harness two of the Percheron geldings waiting nearby. The kids were up to the task, and smiling right back at their teacher as

they dove into the piles of leather. A short time later two Percheron geldings emerged, ready to pull the carts waiting for them.

Now that the horses were braided and harnessed, it was time to have some fun. Laureen Knapp, of Knapp Tyme Percherons in Findlay, Ohio, provided the instruction for the driving portion of the clinic. This was the favorite part of the clinic for Amber, although she was quick to add that she enjoyed the whole day. Not only did it give the kids a chance to do something many of them had never had the chance to do before, but it demonstrated to the adults in the group the versatility of the

Percheron breed. These massive horses when hitched in the show ring often project a fiery temper, but in the hands of the kids they showed that they could be the gentlest of "baby-sitters."

After a long day of work, both mentally and physically it was time to head home. This next generation of Percheron owners and breeders had spent their day in the sun, laughing and learning. Someday it will be their turn to stand along side a ring and watch as a group of eager youngsters take the reins of a Percheron horse for the first time, and they will know that dreams are being filled right before their eyes.

## AJCA Announces Contest Winners

**REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio** — Maplerow Mercury Aron-PTL-P, E-96%, topped the Leading Living Lifetime Production Contest in both the milk and fat categories. She is owned by Peggy A. Bennett, Albion, N.Y.

Glen Meadows Maple Sweetness, E-90% is the lifetime protein production winner, owned by Glen Meadows Farm, Fultonville, N.Y.

The Leading Living Lifetime Production Contest is sponsored each year by the American Jersey Cattle Association. It recognizes Jerseys alive as of December 31 of the contest year. In order to be nominated, cows must have a lifetime production of 150,000 lbs. milk, or 7,500 lbs. fat, or 5,000



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lbs. protein.

Only DHIR production credits are used to calculate the standings. The total lifetime production achieved by the winners of the 1995 Leading Living Lifetime Production Contest is a credit to the producing ability of the Jersey breed.

Maplerow Mercury Aron is currently working on her 12th lactation, producing a total of 247,820 lbs. milk, 8,670 lbs. protein, and 11,346 lbs. fat in 4,188 days. She has a mature average on 12 lactations of 19,035 lbs. milk, 865 lbs. fat, and 780 lbs. protein.

The 14-yr.-old cow has completed nine lactations of more than 18,600 lbs. milk and 680 lbs. protein. This cow also ranked fourth in protein production and was named Grand Champion at the 1996 All American Open Show.

Glen Meadows Maple Sweetness, produced 9,103 lbs. of protein to take top honors in that category. This cow also placed second

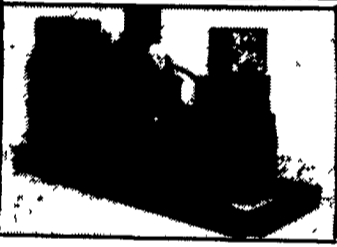
in milk production and sixth in fat production. She has completed 10 lactations in her lifetime.

Lanis Lexi of Star Jerseys won the Presidents Trophy and Hilmar Cheese Yield Award. She is owned by Raycene Crews, Star, Idaho.

The Presidents Trophy is based on mature equivalent protein production. The Hilmar cheese yield award is based on 305-day actual production completed in 1995, and is computed using the modified cheese yield formula for 38 percent moisture cheddar.

Lanis Lexi of Star Jerseys won the awards for her 33,900—1,540—1,465 m.e. and her actual record of 2-11 305 30,000 4.6% 1,387 4.4% 1,320. This record yields a total of 3,952 lbs. of cheese.

The Leading Living Lifetime Production Awards, Presidents Trophy, and Hilmar Cheese Yield Award was to have been presented during the AJCA-NAJ Annual Meetings in Portland, Oregon this week.



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