

## Dairy Fitting Contest Learning Experience

**EVERETT NEWSWANGER**  
Managing Editor

**QUARRYVILLE** (Lancaster Co.) - The Lancaster County 4-H dairy fitting contest was held for the second year on the night preceding the annual 4-H dairy show. Event organizer Larry Kennel hopes the event will become a tradition. Kennel said youths are not taught how to fit their animals, and then when they get older and are in stiffer competition, professional fitters take over the work. But if young people were given the opportunity to learn over the course of their involvement in 4-H, they could become as good in fit-

ting their own show animals as the professionals.

Thus the 4-H contest has become a reason to learn. And learning may be more important than winning, but winners were still selected. First a showmanship contest was held to narrow the field down to four contestants in each of the two divisions, senior and junior. These contestants then had one hour to clip and primp their heifers into fit presentations for Tom McCauley, local Holstein breeder and showman from Elizabethtown.

In the junior division, Jeremy Meck, 14, was named the winner. Last year Jeremy came in third. He

is the son of Ronald and Joyce Meck, Denver, and is in the eighth grade at Cocalico Middle School.

Marsha Balmer, 17, daughter of Clete and Jean Balmer, Manheim, won the senior division. Marsha is a junior at Manheim Central High School.

Both winners received a new cow clippers from Monsanto, who sponsored the event and was represented by Don Gard.

Other winners also had choices of prizes in order of their placing. In the junior division, second, Lindsey Howard, and third, Timothy Donough, both of Willow Street.

Senior division, 2nd, Zackary Meck, Denver; 3rd, Joe Best, Holtwood; and 4th, Elizabeth Smith, Denver.

The Lancaster 4-H dairy show was held the next day, and the Lancaster County Holstein open show was held Thursday.



Presenting prizes to the fitting winners. From left, Dan Gard, Monsanto representative; Jeremy Meck, junior division winner; and Marsha Balmer, senior division winner.

## 4-H/FFA Swine, Sheep Show July 30

**ARENDTSTVILLE** (Adams Co.) — Adams County 4-H and FFA members are busy getting ready for the 13th annual swine and sheep show and sale, scheduled Tuesday, July 30 at the South Mountain Fairgrounds.

More than 80 hogs and 35 lambs will be shown in market classes with a champion and reserve selected for each species. In addition, the 4-H and FFA members will compete in senior, intermediate, and junior fitter/showman classes for each species. A top individual will be named in

each fitter/showman class. The swine show starts at 8 a.m. on July 30 with the sheep show at 11 a.m.

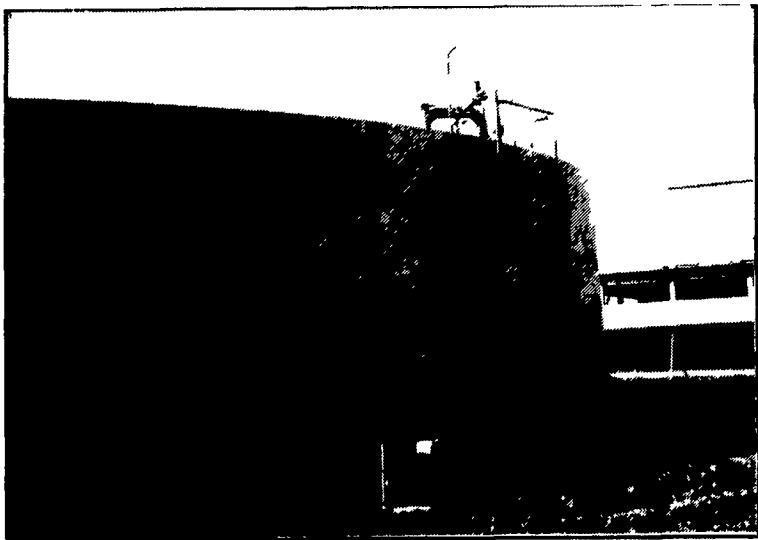
All hogs and lambs at the show will be sold Tuesday evening, July 30, at competitive bid auction. This is an ideal opportunity for anyone to purchase quality pork or lamb for the freezer. Interested buyers bid the price per pound they desire for an animal they select, and the animal will auctioned to the highest bidder. Leaders and members will try to arrange transportation to a local butcher. After the animal is sold,

the buyer may give specific instructions to the butcher for processing and preparation. The sheep sale begins at 7 p.m. and swine sale begins at 7:45 p.m.

Patrons unable to attend the sale may give a bid to a high school vo-ag instructor or Terri Packard at the Adams County Extension Office, (717) 334-6271 or 624-4525.

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