

Hoover Wins 4-H Chain Calf

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Lancaster Farming Staff
NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) — Nelson Ebersole is probably more widely known in his Lebanon County community for his Annville-based real estate and auctioneering businesses.

What many may not know is that he also has had a life-long interest in Holsteins and currently has a farm with about 30 registered Holsteins.

On Tuesday, in conjunction with the Lebanon Area Fair youth dairy day activities, on behalf of his two businesses he presented a registered Holstein to the winning youth of an essay contest Ebersole made possible.

Judged by an independent committee, the contest was set up by Ebersole to create an opportunity like the one he benefitted from as a youth.

He said he wanted to return the

favor. See, when he was young, he won a similar contest.

He said that when he was 12, he worked all summer on an uncle's farm milking cows, baling hay, hauling manure, etc., and with the money earned, bought a Holstein calf and enough feed for the calf. That calf died.

Distraught, but not discouraged, he entered an essay contest for a chain calf that was offered by the Northern Lebanon FFA chapter.

A chain calf contest is one in which the recipient of the chain calf raises that calf, breeds it back and then donates the first heifer calf back in order to hold another contest, and continue to provide the opportunity to own and breed cattle.

If no heifers are born, the bull calves are sold and the money used to purchase a heifer to be offered as a contest calf.

The gift keeps on giving.

Ebersole said he contributed the calf Tuesday because, "I wanted to give back something to the community because of how good the Lord has been to me and I hope it will start somebody else in the Holstein business."

In his own case, Ebersole won the Northern Lebanon FFA essay contest and the calf was an Osbornedale Ivanhoe daughter, which Holstein breeders know turned out to be an excellent pedigree.

"And that's how I got interested in Holsteins," he said.

After high school he worked for Atlantic Breeders Cooperative as an artificial insemination technician and serviced more than 25,000 cows. Later his auctioneering business grew, as well as his Suburban Realty business, both located along Main Street in Annville.

He approached Lebanon 4-H leaders about his plan for a contest calf and with a go-ahead, he pur-

chased Valley-Pond Farm, Mark Ann, born Oct. 10, 1995, from Hershey Bare, a local dairyman who has helped many times with community agriculture projects and programs.

Ebersole raised the calf to its current age. This one shouldn't die. Seven youth responded to the contest and essays were to be about why the youth wanted the calf, and how they would take care of it.

While a committee made the final selection, Ebersole said he looked at all the essays and that all the applications were "wonderful."

The winner was Bradley Hoover, son of Reid and Dianne Hoover, Lebanon.

A broadly smiling Bradley seemed a little too excited to talk, though he said that, in brief, he wrote in his essay that he would take care of the calf and that he wanted to breed back an even better calf to pass along to the next guy (or girl).



Bradley Hoover holds the halter of his prize 4-H chain calf while sponsors Eisle and Nelson Ebersole, of Ebersole Auctioneering and Suburban Realty, present it to Hoover.

Speakers Receive Top Honors

WESTMINSTER, Md. — Carroll County recently held its annual 4-H public speaking contest.

A total of 112 4-H members presented 160 speeches at the Ag Center in Westminster.

4-H speakers received top honors at the Carroll County 4-H Public Speaking Contest in the senior division (members ages 14-18). They are Rebecca Dowlsley, champion radio address; Laura Gibson, champion prepared speech and radio address; Tamyra Robrecht, champion prepared and extemporaneous speeches; Rachel Dyky, reserve champion prepared speech; and Amy Davidson, reserve champion, extemporaneous.

Reserve champions were Jessica Fritz and Amy Petkovsek.

In the Intermediate Division, 4-H'ers ages 11-13, who participated in the Carroll County 4-H Public Speaking Contest and received the highest awards are Danielle Wilmsen, reserve champion prepared speech; Sam Chamelin, reserve champion extemporaneous speech; Amanda Dell, champion prepared speech; Emily Hester, reserve champion radio address; Sara Kopp, reserve champion prepared speech; and Ashley Szymanski, champion radio address. Others were Blair Mersinger, Emily Chamelin, Heather Weisse, and Gary

Brauning.

Winning honors in the Junior Division (4-H'ers between ages 8 and 10 years) in the Carroll County 4-H Public Speaking Contest were Heather Withnell, champion extemporaneous speech; Rebecca Fouts, reserve champion radio address; Heather Slivecky, champion prepared speech and reserve champion extemporaneous; Kim Bosley, reserve champion prepared speech; Sandy Bolm, champion extemporaneous and prepared speech; Katie Bassler, champion radio address; Maryann Petkovsek, reserve champion extemporaneous; Whitney Dell, reserve champion radio address; and Danielle Hess.

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