Aged Holstein Wins Supreme Title At Lebanon Area Fair

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NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) — An aged registered Holstein, Loving Meadows Karealot, owned and bred by Jesse Bomgardner, of Ono, on Tuesday was named the supreme champion dairy animal of the Lebanon Area Fair.

The Bomgardner cow was a victor in the FFA division of the Holstein show, and the honor is another in a growing list of show ring achievements for the cow.

Last year, Jesse won with Karealot at the Lebanon Area Fair, capturing the 4-H grand champion title. This year, because of his own age, Bomgardner entered his Holsteins in the FFA division of the show.

More recently, the tall, lengthy, almost 8-year-old cow won senior and grand champion honors for Jesse at the 41st Pennsylvania Southeast District Junior Dairy Show held at the Lebanon fairgrounds.

At that show, one of two qualifying district junior dairy shows offered in the area, there is no longer a distinction made between 4-H and FFA. However, that distinction is still being made at the Lebanon Area Fair.

Born Sept. 2, 1988, Bomgardner's Bridon Astro Jet-ET daughter was selected from among the grand champions of all five major breeds exhibited by youth at the Lebanon Area Fair.

Dale Olver, who is a dairy specialist with Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences and in charge of the youth extension dairy activities for the state, was judge of the Ayrshire, Guernsey, and Jersey shows, as well as final decider for supreme champion.

Christine Gitt Wood, of Penn-Gate Holsteins in Littlestown, judged the youth Holstein and Brown Swiss shows. In explaining his choice for supreme, Olver said that he had discussed with Wood her observances of the grand champions she judged.

Of special consideration in making his selection, Olver said, was the fact that the frame of Karealot was so strong, and that she was in good shape after going through more calvings than two other contending cows.

As final contenders, Olver had picked out Alicia Mase's Brown Swiss, which was last year's Lebanon Area Fair supreme champion, and Daryl Maulfair's junior 2-year-old Ayrshire, along with Bomgardner's Karealot.

During the Ayrshire show, when Olver made Maulfair's Ayrshire the grand champion of the open and 4-H division shows, he gave her high praise.

Maulfair's Maulfair-Acres Festival D.J. was his first bred and owned animal. Olver said the first-calf cow was exceptional and that there is little if anything he would change about her. He said he wouldn't hesitate to take her to a national show.

Mase's Brown Swiss, Meadow Hill Jade Alice-ET, is also a bred and owned animal. Alice was also grand champion of both the open and 4-H divisions.

Olver said that all three could be supreme, but that in cases such as this, with a 2-year-old, a 4-year-old and a 7-year-old cow all being of comparable high quality, that he had to go with the cow that has had the most calvings.

During the selection process, the grand champions of both the 4-H and FFA divisions were allowed to enter in the selection for supreme champion. FFA entries normally aren't as numerous as 4-H entries, and in some breeds, the FFA champions weren't brought back into the ring.

Olver congratulated the youth on all the grand champions in the ring, praising the quality of animals presented and the depth of each show.

The selection of supreme champion was made Tuesday evening, after the shows ended by mid-afternoon.

At the Lebanon Area Fair, a contest was started several years ago that is designed to honor 4-H youth with dairy animals not only for show day excellence, but for their continued, everyday commitment to keeping records and caring for their animal.

The best bred and owned competition is a 50-point competition that weighs 10 points on the quality of the animal and the rest on the showing abilities and detail and depth of 4-H project book work of the exhibitor youth.

Olver said that Lebanon County's 4-H program is recognized around the state as being one of the best and this competition is an example of that.
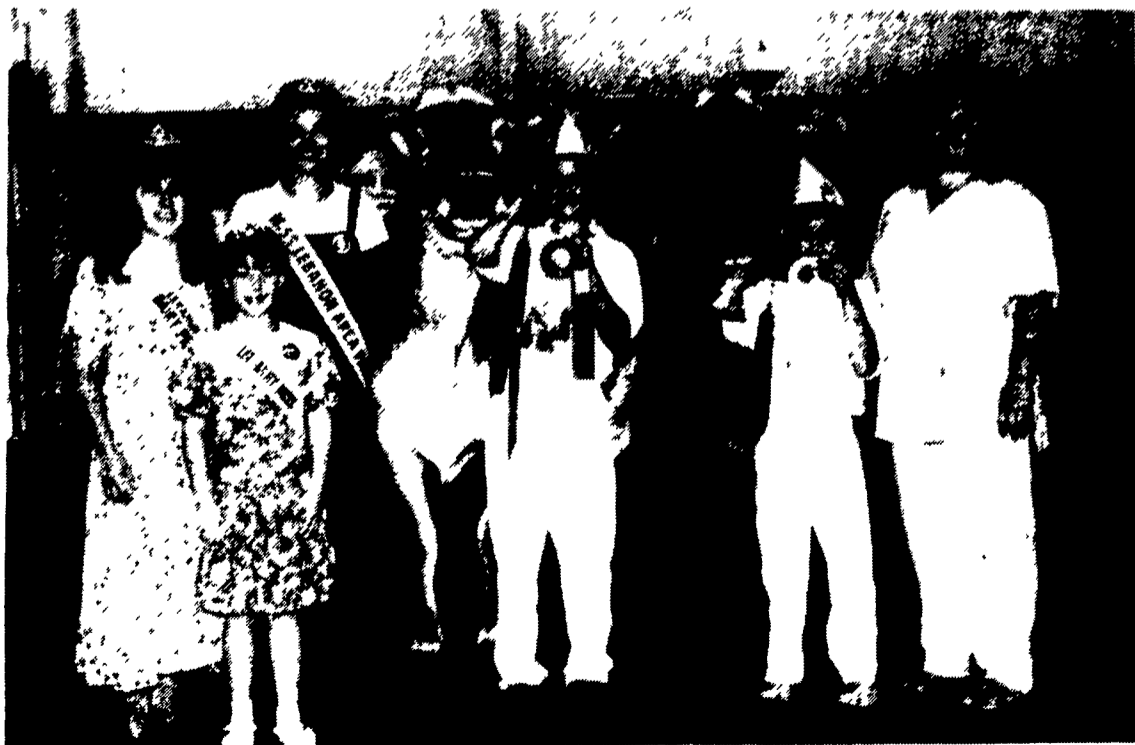
The competition is also supported by the Lebanon Agway which provides $100 savings bonds for the top three place winners.

Daryl Maulfair won the competition, earning a total of 47 points. Second and third place was tie with 45 points each to Amy Habecker, of Palmyra, and past winner Amanda Martin, Lebanon.

From the left, Justin Troutman holds the halter of his open division junior champion Jersey, while Brenda Dice holds the halter of the reserve senior/grand champion, and Bethany Heagy holds the halter of her grand champion and shows the trophy.

From the left, Miss Lebanon Area Fair Amy Musselwhite stands with Karen Nolt, who holds the halter of her open division reserve senior and grand champion Guernsey, while Andrew Ebersole holds the halter of his senior and grand champion.

From the left, Lebanon County Dairy Princess Alisha Myers, Lil' Dairy Miss Melissa Bashore, and Miss Lebanon Area Fair Amy Musselwhite, stand with Alicia Mase who holds the halter of her bred and owned open division senior and grand champion Brown Swiss, while her brother Anthony Mase holds the halter of his open division reserve senior and grand champion, while judge Christine Gitt Wood stands with them.

From the left, Andrew Ebersole holds the halter of his reserve junior champion Guernsey, while Erin Smith shows the junior champion.