

Westmoreland 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale Tops \$106,000

DAVID HIEBERT
Westmoreland Co. Correspondent
MUTUAL, (Westmoreland Co.) — The sale of over 300 animals and carcasses at the Westmoreland County 4-H/FFA livestock auction netted about \$106,500 for budding livestock producers in a sale here August 24.

In introductory remarks before the sale, William C. Kelley, Westmoreland County extension director, praised the volunteers—parents, 4-H leaders and other adults — that made the 4-H program workable. Kelly lamented the situation in neighboring Allegheny County where the fair had to be canceled due to lack of support. Kelley challenged Allegheny County to put on the kind of program demonstrated in Westmore-

land. But he said they "couldn't afford it" unless they effected a fair using community minded citizen volunteers that want to see it happen. In Westmoreland County, the volunteers start at the level of the 4-H leaders and goes on up to the 21 member fair board, all who serve without remuneration.

At the end of the sale volunteers demonstrated the exact spirit of which Kelly spoke. When the last animal filed out of the ring, the people that had already been working at the fair all week cleared the sale arena of the auction lay out, and made the building available for the teen dance which followed in the evening.

Many buyers and 4-H participants included amounts from their purchase for the 4-H Scholarship Fund. According to Joanne Logan,

extension agent for youth, the goal of the fund is to "meet all requests for scholarship money beyond high school." In 1995, it's third year, the fund granted six \$500 scholarships. The scholarships are paid in the students' name directly to the university or college of their choice. Any Westmoreland 4-H member is eligible to apply. Grants are made on the basis of need, participation in 4-H and leadership skill exhibited.

More on the Westmoreland County Fair:

For years, fair officials have set an attendance goal of 100,000 and continued that goal in planning this year's fair. In 1995 attendance came to 91,000 shattering the previous 72,000 record set in 1992. Attendance includes paid admission, grandstand events and week-long exhibitor and commercial passes. This year the board included an additional weekend in the schedule starting off with country music performer, Aaron Tippin, on Friday evening, August 16.

But the attendance record? As in previous years, it was the weather. A storm came through Friday evening Aug. 23, keeping the crowd small and the total attendance withered at 93,500. The 100,000 goal remains a barrier to be broken. Next year?

In another measure of participation by the community, the Westmoreland County Fair Board issued about 11,000 exhibitor checks totaling about \$34,000. The premiums for these exhibitors are advertised and follow specific rules for hundreds of specific entries such as: clothing design, photography, baking and gardening specimens. Next year, fair organizers have decided that they will not mail the exhibitors fair books to this year's exhibitors. Rather, distribution will be through local agriculture stores and via insertion in local newspapers. Entries are due next year on August 1, 1997. In all about 4,000 commercial and non-commercial exhibitors participated this year.



Missy Capets, Latrobe, sold her 60 pound Grand Champion Market goat for \$300.00 to Mike Fisher, Greensburg.



Kristina Bierbower (center), Latrobe, sold her 129 pound Grand Champion Market Lamb for \$903 to National City Bank, here represented by Trudy Olsen, manager of the Norvelt National city branch, and her son Tyler. Kristina had many duties during the fair. In addition to showing her lambs and hogs, she was also selected as fair queen. Photos by David Hiebert.



J.J. Himler, New Derry, sold his Grand Champion Market Hog to Ray Overdorff of the Westmoreland Mall Shop and Save for \$1,457.50. The hog weighed in at 265 lb. for Himler, a first year 4-H member.



James Buttermore, Mt. Pleasant, garnered \$3,042.00 for his Grand Champion Market Steer: sold to Hoss's Steak House. Buttermore, shown here with Hoss's managers Glenn Martin from the Greensburg location, and Jim Sebeck from the Murrysville store, had the animal judged top out of 48 entrants. However, sale-wise he came in second to the Reserve Grand Champion which earned \$3,673.50 for its owner David Cambuzzi, Darragh, from Laurel Highlands Animal Hospital, Somerset.

Selected auction results:

owner, city	animal	sale price
Kristina Bierbower, Latrobe	Grand Champion Market Lamb	\$903.00
Krystal McCracken, Derry	Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb	\$296.70
Missy Capets, Latrobe	Grand Champion Market goat	\$300.00
Amanda Dias, Latrobe	Reserve Grand Champion Market goat	\$225.00
James Buttermore, Mt. Pleasant	Grand Champion Market Steer	\$3,042.00
David Cambuzzi, Darragh	Reserve Grand Champion Market Steer	\$3,673.50
J J Himler, New Derry	Grand Champion Market Hog	\$1,457.50
Justin Ross, Latrobe	Reserve Grand Champion Market Hog	\$1,225.00
Brennen Bierbower, Latrobe	Grand Champion Lamb Carcass	\$364.00
Kristina Bierbower, Latrobe	Reserve Grand Champion Lamb Carcass	\$429.00
Justin Ross, Latrobe	Grand Champion Hog Carcass	\$747.00
Kevin Rubright, Jeanette	Reserve Grand Champion Hog Carcass	\$453.00
Kristina Bierbower, Latrobe	Grand Champion Pair of Lambs	\$207.40
Krystal McCracken, Latrobe	Reserve Grand Champion Pair of Lambs	\$224.00
Russel Steele, Greensburg	Grand Champion Market Rabbit	\$ 66.94
Scott Lenhart, Latrobe	Reserve Grand Champion Market Rabbit	\$71.25