



Showmanship champions at Manheim steer show. From left, Laura Huber, fair queen; Blaine Brown, seniors; John Hess, Intermediates; and Chris, brother to John Hess, juniors.



Supreme champion steer at Manheim went to Travis Donough, far right, Tuesday evening. From left, JoAnn Hausner, judge; Ryan Groff, reserve; Laura Huber, fair queen; and Travis.

Donough Champion, Groff Reserve At Manheim Steer Show

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MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — A lot of adjectives can be used to describe Manheim Farm Show's supreme champion steer: "stylish," "well-balanced," and "eye-appealing."

The judge, an Angus breeder from Dover, used all of them to describe a 1,277-pound FFA champion steer, "Lonestar," shown by Travis Donough.

JoAnn Hausner, who works for the state ag department's Farm Show bureau and is an Angus exhibitor with JDH Cattle Company, chose the medium weight champion shown by Travis, 17, son of Ed and LaRue Donough, Manheim, for supreme champion Tuesday evening.

For Travis, the steer is one of three champions he has exhibited so far at the Manheim Farm Show.

Travis showed a Maine Anjou/Angus crossbred steer he obtained from Scott Hummel, Selinsgrove. Travis, a senior at Manheim Central High School, is Manheim FFA student adviser and county sentinel. He said that he spends about an hour and a half preparing the steer and works with it about 3-4 nights per week.

He also walks the steer as much as possible, he noted — up to about a quarter mile a night. Why all the work? Simple, he said. The exercise helps to tame them and, he said, to "try to calm them down."

Travis noted that Lonestar "is really hyper — he really pays attention to everything." The FFA member said that "baldies" like Lonestar "are a little more wild, in my opinion."

Reserve went to a 1/4 Angus and 3/4 Limousin crossbred shown by Ryan Groff. Ryan Groff showed a 1,292-pound heavyweight champion shown in the 4-H division.

Ryan, 17, is the son of Richard and Rachel Groff, Manheim. The Manheim Central High School senior and Manheim FFA vice president obtained the steer from J.L.B. Limousin, Adams County.

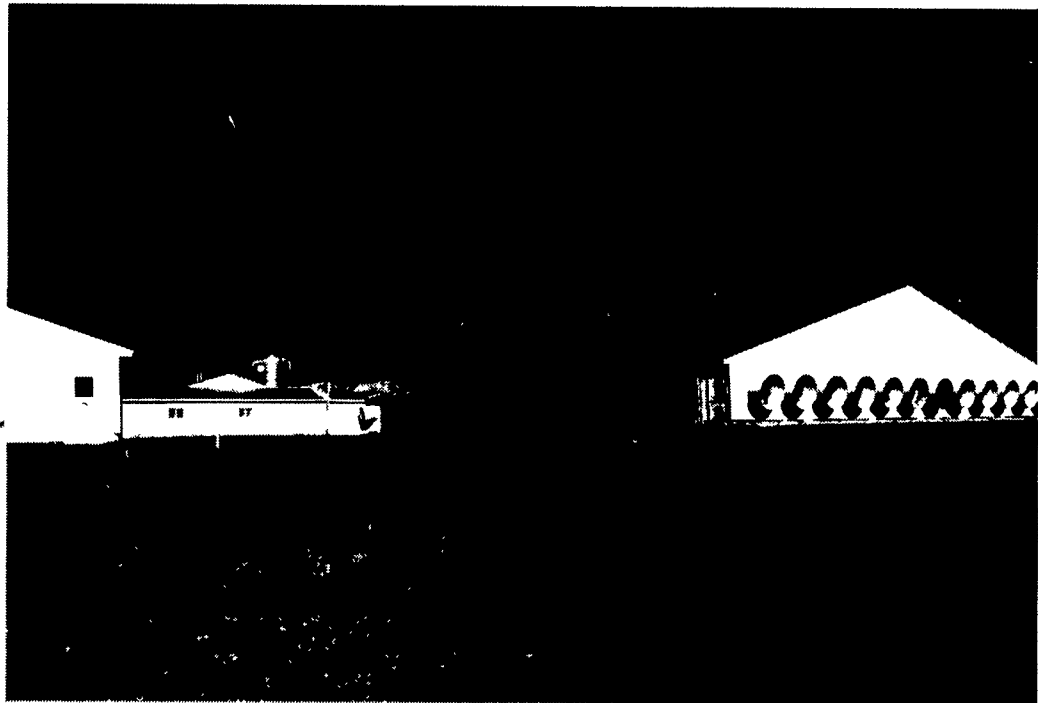
Ryan, a member of the Lancaster County Beef Club along with fellow Manheim senior Travis Donough, said he believes he is working up to supreme championship at Manheim. Ryan noted that two years ago he showed the reserve champion FFA, then last year he exhibited the champion FFA steer at the show. This year he was reserve overall.

Ryan spends a good deal of time grooming the steer, including time the past weekends getting the steer ready. "The hair (on the steer) got all nice," he said, trying to work on the animal when he has time. Ryan said the steer was fed a mix that included flaked corn (which he said worked really good to improve muscling) along with a 30 percent protein.

Travis Donough, supreme champion, showed a Farm Show preview steer, a Milking Shorthorn, at Manheim.

Champions of the showmanship competition went to juniors, Chris Hess; intermediates, John Hess; and seniors, Blaine Brown.

There were 24 exhibitors and 25 steers at the show. Following is a list of placings.



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