

Cathy Still Looks Excellent In Work Clothes

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

BELLEVILLE (Mifflin Co.) - While Walnut Hill Logic Cathy, the supreme champion last year at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, will not be back in the show ring until later this year, she is as beautiful as ever. A visit to her home at Lynn Neer's farm, Belleville, gives you the opportunity to see an excellent 95 point, six year-old cow, that is as sound in her work clothes as she looks in the show ring.

Owned by Paul Neer, Belleville, Lynn's brother and a professional hoof trimmer and Delmar and Larry Zimmerman of Mifflin and Frank Connelly from State College, Cathy, is, of course, a little pampered. She can navigate the free stall barn, but she is better cared for in her individual stall in a little side barn along the driveway. As the first cow you see when you drive into the farm, she certainly gives a good impression of the dairy herd.

The champion is just 61 inches tall, weighs close to a ton, has an excellent udder, and has made her best record this year of 32,000m 4.9% 1,570f 1,100p 3.5%.

"I don't remember her as a fresh two year-old," Paul said. "But I got acquainted with her as an 89 point three year-old. She sold at Louisville three years ago, and I bought one-half interest for \$11,200. I knew she was a good cow, but there was no way I could have known that within 14 months she would be EX95."

After going EX92 right after Paul brought her home, she calved to Stardust. This heifer, Miss DLP Stardust Cameo, is now springing and owned by the Neers and the Zimmermans. The next year Cathy calved with twins. The heifer calf died and the bull calf is in service at a local neighbor's farm.

Over the calving with twins, Cathy went down and almost all hope was gone that she would recover. But after a lot of expert medical care and sleepless nights for her owners, Cathy did recover and is her old independent self again. Both Cathy and Cameo are bred to Carnation Chancelor.

"There are a lot of different opinions on what to look for in a good cow," Paul said. "I'm not a numbers man. Cathy is my kind of cow—balanced, tremendous depth and flatness of rib, excellent udder, open nostrils, long neck—the kind of cow that spells milk."

"Many people equate frailness with dairyness. But I like a cow with strength that also has dairyness. That's a true dairy cow to me. When you see several thousand dairy cows each year as I do, you see the breed is in serious trouble. There is no question a lot of cows are looking far older than they should look. Many times a three year-old shows a lot of milk but has way more udder than she should."

"If a young person is looking to get in the business, he should look for a good cow to build on, and he should look to someone who has been successful with integrity. I can't stress enough the integrity. Cheating on records, indexes and in the show ring is pitiful. A young person needs to look to someone who has the reputation for good cows and is well regarded."

"It's important to me that with Cathy, what you see is what she is. There is nothing done to her at the



Walnut Hill Logic Cathy

shows. She is 100 percent cow. We have gotten off track as a breed. You don't need to have a herd of excellent show cows, but you need to breed cows that last.

"The financial aspect of farming has changed the way things are done today. A cow classified at 86 points that has a calf every year and makes a good record is the best kind of cow to have," Paul said.

As for showing at the Farm Show, Paul says there are positives and negatives. The kind of publicity you get here is incredible, but the time of year, in the middle of winter, makes it a hard show to handle the animals. And the large number of people who come through makes it hard also. But on the other hand, bringing the farm to the city is good for education.

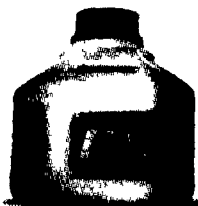
So, you will not be able to see Cathy in January this year, unless you drive to her home in Belleville. But if everything goes right, you may be able to see her at Shippensburg later this year and on through the fall shows. But wherever you see Cathy, you will see a beautiful cow.



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