

Looking At Potatoes? Youth Prepare For Exciting Contest

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GETTYSBURG (Adams Co.)
- Potatoes stacked on small paper plates sit at one end of the room. A blackboard is at the other end.

They are both tools a group of 15 Adams County 4-H'ers are using as they prepare to enter the competition that will eventually lead some of them to the Pennsylvania State Farm Show in Harrisburg.

At the head of the class in the Penn State Extension Office classroom near Gettysburg is Jerry Tyson, a retired Adams County extension agent, who is providing information the youths will need if they are to take part in the innocuous, and seldom publicized, potato judging.

What can be that exciting about looking at potatoes?

For these youths it's the competition to possibly reach the goal of a blue ribbon for their knowledge about potatoes. They want to be on one of two teams who will represent their county at the prestigious, and perennial, state Farm Show.

Competing for a spot on one of the teams is Kristi Cunningham, 15, Arendtsville. It's her second year and she returned because "it was fun, so I thought I'd give it a try again," she said.

Last year, her first year in potato judging, started when she heard there was a need for team members. As a member of Team B, she said, "I learned that there is more to potatoes than most people think."

The sophomore at Biglerville High School said in competition she will be looking for "cracks, flakes, and spokes" on the potatoes that may in some way make them less than perfect.

"It could happen in growing or shipping," she said. It's up to



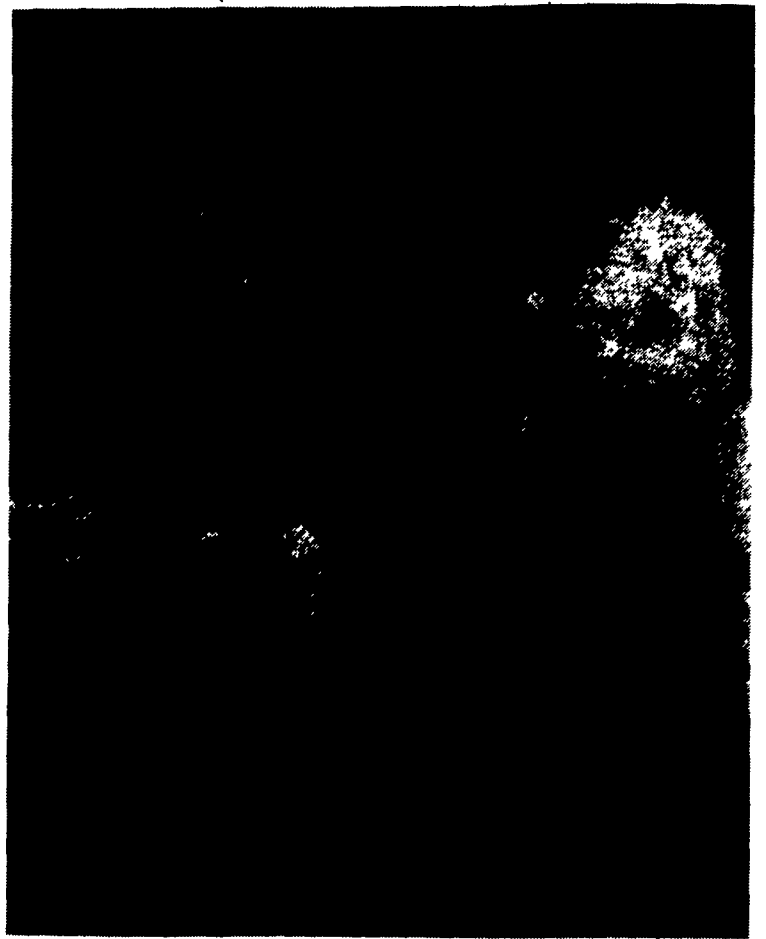
Laura Burdette of Biglerville takes notes on how to be the best potato judge in an effort to make one of two 4-H teams that will represent Adams County at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show.

the competition to tell the judges about the potato and that takes practice, which will happen over the next month as the youths compete for a spot on one of the teams.

As a representative to the Adams County 4-H Senate and a member of the Upper Adams 4-H Program, she is aiming this year for Team A and hopes last year's experience will provide

what she needs to reach that goal.

Visitors to the Farm Show will also be able to see Kristi doing her 4-H presentation. She explained that earlier this year she won a first place during an Adams County presentation on how to make a bird house out of cardboard and will be taking that project along to Harrisburg, too.



Jerry Tyson, retired Adams County extension agent, takes a group of 4-H members through their paces as they compete for a place on one of two teams that will take part in potato judging at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show



Budding potato judges, left, Jessie Leister and Jenelle Keller, both of Gettysburg, and Kristi Cunningham of Arendtsville, listen intently during a recent meeting of a group of Adams County 4-H members competing for membership on two teams that will represent the county at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show.

Commodity Outlook Conference Set

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) - Will 1998 be a good year for you? How will it be different from last year? What can producers do to meet the challenges the future holds?

You can learn the answers to all these questions by attending the Commodity Outlook Conference sponsored by Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB). The PFB conference will be held at two locations, on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at the Holiday Inn, Grantville, PA and again on Thursday, Jan. 29 at the Best Western University Inn, Indiana, PA.

"We can predict with confidence that 1998 will bring many changes to the agricultural industry," said PFB president Guy Donaldson. "For us to develop a positive vision and response to these changes, we need to understand the challenges that lie ahead."

Each Commodity Outlook Conference will begin with registration at 9:30 a.m. and will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch included. A registration fee of \$5 per person will be charged.

All farmers or anyone interested in what the future holds

for agriculture is invited to attend.

"As we look forward to the coming year in production agriculture, there is uncertainty as to what to expect, no matter what commodity you may be producing," said Donaldson. "How will you be affected by government rules and regulations, industry mergers and consolidation, new technology, changes in consumer demand, environmental and food safety concerns, world markets and trade, marketing trends or other issues. These are questions that will be addressed at the Commodity Outlook Conference."

The featured speaker at the conference will be Dr. Luther Tweeten, Professor of Agricultural Marketing, Policy and Trade at Ohio State University. Professor Tweeten will lead off the conference with a two-hour session on the major issues transforming the entire agricultural industry. During separate sessions in the afternoon, commodity experts from the American Farm Bureau Federation will discuss the outlooks for dairy, livestock, poultry and crop producers.

"The goal of our Commodity Outlook Conference is to develop a positive vision for each commodity area and to identify issues and direction that Farm Bureau can actively help with," Donaldson said. "I strongly urge all interested farmers to attend the conference in their area."

The deadline for conference registration is Jan. 23. To register, send a check for \$5 per person attending, payable to "Pennsylvania Farm Bureau", to: Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Member Relations Division, P.O. Box 8736, Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736.

Horse World Expo To Be Held January 9-11

TIMONIUM, Md. - Twice the number of vendors is expected at the second Horse World Expo, to be held January 9 to 11, 1998 at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium, MD. The show features a retail trade show, educational seminars, mounted demonstrations, a "Stallion Avenue," and more.

Continuous seminars will be presented in two lecture halls by nationally known trainers, authors and speakers, including Richard Shrake, Barbara

Schulte, Kenny Harlow, Phillip Dutton (Friday only) and Dan Sumerel. Endurance rider and trainer Debi Gordon will make a special appearance Saturday and Olympic medalist Anne Kursinski will appear Sunday, both courtesy of Nutrena Feeds. A top crowd pleaser from last year, GaWaNi PonyBoy will return with a program of Native American Horsemanship. A "Stallion Avenue" will showcase many of the region's top stallions. Among the continuous

mounted demonstrations is a "Parade of Breeds".

Horse World Exp runs Friday, January 9, from noon to 9 p.m. Saturday, January 10 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, January 11 from 9 a.m. and Sunday, January 11 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children ages ten to fourteen. Children under 10 are admitted free and parking is free. For more information, visit the show's website at www.midatlantichorse.com.