

Kids' Korner

Katrina's Bull Is Grand Champion In National Test

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff

QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — Katrina Frey is only eight years old, but she already has a good start in carrying on the dream of her dad, grandpa, and great grandpa. She is the fourth generation in the Frey family to raise champion Angus cattle.

Recently Katrina's bred and owned bull went to Montana to be on test for several months. More than 100 bulls from across the U.S. were tested for weight gain, high growth, and eye appeal under carefully-controlled conditions at the Treasure Test Center.

Katrina's 1,533 pound son of GMAR Hi Spade 039 won the Single Shot Jackpot Division for his impressive 3.59 pounds per day weight gain and an index of 114.

The bull sold for \$3,750 to the North Dakota Frey Angus Ranch. Although they share the same last name, the two different Frey families are not relatives and only met through the test service.

The champion bull was actually from a string of cattle bred from the first calf that Katrina received when she was about two years old.

from her grandfather, Fred Frey. That cow has had several daughters and the bull was born from a granddaughter of the first cow.

Katrina said that she does not miss the champion bull, named Astro, which means "star."

"He is a star, Katrina said.

She still has the older and younger brother of the champion, and becomes attached to Buddy, a steer she shows at local fairs, the Beef Expo, and the Pennsylvania Angus Show.

The champion bull showed winning characteristics at an early age.

"In addition to looking good, he was always the first up to eat. He liked to sniff and be scratched," Katrina's dad said. "Champions usually don't seem as wild as some bulls, which probably means they don't feel as much stress and are more inclined to gain weight."

Katrina's dad explained that in the East, breeders look for more show characteristics in bulls. In the West, they want more maternal strength in bulls. The Freys sell about 50 percent of their offspring to Western breeders.

Katrina's dad, grandpa, and several other family members raise



Katrina Frey is the fourth generation to raise Angus cattle. From left, Katrina stands with her great grandmother Anna Frey, dad Fritz Frey, and grandfather Fred Frey.

about 120 registered Angus cattle at their Quarryville Farms under the name Fred Frey & Sons. The herd was first established in 1948 by Katrina's great-grandfather Fred C. Frey. But he never saw the first calf that was born in 1949, because he was killed in a truck accident. Katrina's grandfather was 16 years old at the time, and worked hard to maintain the Angus line, which is well-known nationally.

"I'd like to see my children and grandchildren continue the business, but it's up to them," the elder Frey said. He is pleased that Katrina gave up gymnastics after three years because she needed more time to work with her show cattle. She also shows two market lambs, a ewe, and a yearling.

"I like them all," Katrina said of her variety of animals. "Buddy loves to eat. I fed him a blueberry bagel yesterday."

Katrina is in second grade at Clairmont Elementary School. She has a brother Billy, 2.

She often attends shows to help her parents Fritz and Nancy Frey sell show supplies for cattle, sheep, hogs, and horses, under the Frey Show Supply name.

**WELCOME TO
STERN LIVESTOCK**



Katrina and her dad hold the saddle blankets given as part of the prizes for winning the Grand Champion Single Shot Jackpot Bull at the Treasure Test Center in Montana.



4-H HAPPENINGS

T.R.O.T. 4-H News For April

T.R.O.T. 4-H Club held its fourth meeting of 1998 on April 1.

Under discussion was the trail ride for April 19 in the State Game Lands. However, it was canceled due to rain and muddy conditions.

4-H'er of the Month for January was Sara Weaver. 4-H'er of the Month for February was Laura Hensler.

4-H'er of the Month for March was Krista Musser.

May 6 and May 16 will be meeting dates to work on the club

scrapbooks.

A highlight of May will be the car wash at Weaver Markets in Adamstown May 23 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. May 31 will be the club's practice grooming and showmanship at 2 p.m. Horses are to be there already groomed. The location of the event is to be decided.

The T.R.O.T. Club roundup will be at Farfield Farm in Reinholds, June 13 at 9 a.m. For more information, call Naomi Weaver at (717) 484-0225.

Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

Why do roses die so soon?

It might look like there's enough water in the vase for your flowers, but that doesn't mean the water is getting used. Flowers in a vase usually can't get enough water through their stems, so they wilt and die.

Flowers drink through a tube in the stem. Bacteria harmlessly float around in tap water, but cause problems when they get inside the plant. The water moves up through the tube to the flower, taking bacteria with it. The bacteria stop to feed on material in the tube. When they eat there, thousands of tiny bacteria grow together and block the stem, so water can't get in.

Another reason roses die so quickly is by the time roses get to the store or flower shop, they're often already a few days old. Many roses are grown in South America and shipped to the United States—which takes a couple of days. The fresher they are, the longer your flowers will last.

Valentine's Day — a prime rose-giving holiday — hits during the winter when the air is extremely dry. That's not the best time to have roses, unless you take extra special care of them.

Even if roses are a few days old, they'll last longer if kept in a cool, moist place, where the petals won't dry out. You should cut off the bottom of the stems at an angle when you get flowers to open the stem and clear out some bacteria blocking the way.

It's also a good idea to use the packet of preservative that usually comes with flowers. The packet has sugar and bacteriacide — a chemical that kills bacteria and stops it from blocking the stem.

Next time you buy flowers for your mom, think about buying a rose bush or plant. The best part is they keep flowering year after year!

Scientifically yours,

Twig

Have a question?
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