

Contest 'Fine-Tunes' 4-H Judging Skills

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Lancaster Farming Staff
ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — 4-H members from six counties "fine-tuned" their livestock judging skills at the annual Southeast 4-H Livestock Judging Contest recently at the Elizabethtown Fairgrounds.

4-H'ers from Lancaster, Berks, Lebanon, York, Perry, and Dauphin counties learn from their experiences at the contest to help prepare them for Penn State 4-H Achievement Days in University Park, Aug. 4-6.

Also, 4-H coaches are provided this "opportunity to select better teams" for the Penn State event, said Chet Hughes, Lancaster livestock agent and contest co-superintendent.

"This is one of the last contests the kids go to before the state contest in August," said Galen Kopp, Lebanon county agent.

Kopp said the event acts as a "practice and a qualifier for 4-H members."

Sixty-seven 4-H'ers competed. They judge and place three species — beef, sheep, and swine — and provide oral reasons.

Juniors and seniors compete separately. In addition, during the judging classes, 4-H members are required to write their answers to several questions, which can range from the largest animal in the class to what the animal is expected to measure on the rail.

According to Linda Spahr, York 4-H extension agent, junior members can earn up to 400 points to take tops in their classes. Senior teams can earn 550 points.

For the third year in a row, top senior team was won by Lebanon County. Team members are composed of Blaine Brown, Ryan Spatz, and Ann Leed.

Top junior team went to Berks County, composed of Kristy Deitrich, Cathy Levan, and Amanda Miller.

Beef official was Larry Poss, USDA Packer and Stockyard Administrator. Swine official was Doug Musser, Taylor Packing.

Sheep official was Matt Sellers, Lebanon Valley/Fulton Bank.

Referee official was John Eaton, People's Bank of Glen Rock.

Tabulation official was Tim Beck, York extension.

Tabulations were provided by Galen Kopp. Lunch was provided by Deb Hess.

Green Group leader was Gerald Boyd, Lancaster extension summer assistant and contest co-superintendent. Red group leader was Fred Rudy, Dauphin County extension agent. Black group leader was Rep. Sheila Miller.

"We want to thank the Masonic Homes, Frank Stoltzfus and Gerald Tracy, for providing the livestock for the contest," said Hughes, who also wanted to thank the Elizabethtown Fairgrounds for use of the facility.

Next year, the contest is scheduled the same week for the Lebanon Fairgrounds.

Following is a list of contest placings.

SOUTHEAST 4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST RESULTS

JUNIORS

Beef (Individual): 1. Kristy Deitrich. 2. Tiffany Dean. 3. Becky Spatz.

Sheep (Individual): 1. Zane Martin. 2. John Hartman. 3. Erin Willard.

Swine (Individual): 1. Amanda Hoover. 2. Amanda Miller. 3. Emilie Miller.

Overall Individual: 1. Zane Martin. 2. Kristy Deitrich. 3. Cathy Levan.

Beef Team: 1. Lancaster (Allison Hughes, Tiffany Dean, and Nicole Hess). 2. Berks (Kristy Deitrich, Cathy Levan, and Amanda Miller). 3. Dauphin (Ryan Langhans, Danny Miller, and Andy Weaver).

Sheep Team: 1. York (Travis Flory, Matt Hoover, and Amanda Hoover). 2. Berks (Emilie Miller, John Hartman, and Matt Manbeck). 3. Lebanon (Becky Spatz, Jake Spatz, and Morgan Firestone).

Swine Team: 1. Berks (Kristy Deitrich, Cathy Levan, and Amanda Miller). 2. Lancaster (Allison Hughes, Tiffany Dean, and Nicole Hess). 3. Lebanon (Erin Willard, Janine Winebark, and Margeaux Firestone).

Overall Team: 1. Berks. 2. Lebanon. 3. York (Travis Flory, Matt Hoover, Amanda Hoover).

SENIORS

Beef (Individual): 1. Kelly Dietrich. 2. Tracy Lindgren. 3. Anita Manbeck.

Sheep (Individual): 1. Mike Burrell. 2.

Blaine Brown. 3. Ann Leed.

Swine (Individual): 1. Blaine Brown. 2. Mike Burrell. 3. Nathan Spatz.

Reasons (Individual): 1. Blaine Brown. 2. Mike Burrell. 3. Ann Leed.

Overall (Individual): 1. Blaine Brown. 2. Mike Burrell. 3. Ryan Spatz.

Beef Team: 1. Berks (Kelly Dietrich, Justin Levan, and Jill Neiman). 2. Lebanon (Blaine Brown, Ryan Spatz, Ann Leed). 3. Perry (Melissa Dobbs, Tracy Lindgren, and Zach Martin).

Sheep Team: 1. Lebanon (Blaine Brown, Ryan Spatz, and Ann Leed). 2. York (Jen Flinchbaugh, Joe Emenheiser, and Mike Burrell).

3. Lancaster (Kevin Pfautz, Jessica Schmidt, and Sarah Boyd).

Reasons Team: 1. Lebanon (Blaine Brown, Ryan Spatz, Ann Leed). 2. York (Jen Flinchbaugh, Joe Emenheiser, and Mike Burrell). 3. Berks (Kelly Dietrich, Justin Levan, and Jill Neiman).

Swine Team: 1. Lebanon (Jason Shirk, Nathan Spatz, and Nate Tice). 2. York (Jen Flinchbaugh, Joe Emenheiser, and Mike Burrell). 3. Berks (Kelly Dietrich, Justin Levan, and Jill Neiman).

Overall Team: 1. Lebanon. 2. York. 3. Berks.



First place 4-H senior judging team from Lebanon County, from left, Blaine Brown, Ann Leed, and Ryan Spatz.



Top individuals at the Southeast Pennsylvania 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, from left, Zane Martin, Perry County, Juniors and Blaine Brown, Lebanon County, seniors.



First place 4-H junior judging team at the southeast contest, Berks County, from left, Kristy Deitrich, Cathy Levan, and Amanda Miller.

Florida Needs Hay, Developing List Of Suppliers

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.

Lancaster Farming Staff
TALLAHASSEE, Florida — Pennsylvania hay producers wishing to donate or sell hay to Floridian livestock owners can do so by contacting the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).

Those seeking to donate hay should call Joe Kight with the FDACS Division of Animal Industry at (850) 488-7079.

Those seeking to market their hay through a directory of hay suppliers being created by the FDACS should call (850) 488-4366.

Donated transportation is also being accepted. Those willing to haul donated hay also should call Kight.

Florida has been under a severe drought since April. Two weeks ago rain began to fall again, though not significant in terms of quashing the drought.

The first rain was falling just as a Pennsylvania, Montgomery County steel fabricator used his business trucks to haul a load of South Carolina hay to needy recipients in Florida.

According to Stephen Monroe of the FDACS Division of Marketing, the stretch of rainless weather broke over the past two weeks, but the drought situation is far from over. However, grass has begun to grow again, giving hope for perhaps another cutting of grass hay

before the end of the season.

Monroe said the drought conditions that spurred the devastating wildfires throughout the state also curtailed the growth of grasses raised for beef and dairy cattle and horses.

"We had some rain throughout the state and the situation is somewhat alleviated," Monroe said this week. However, he said that up until rain began to fall, many producers were grazing hay fields, raising the fear that supplies of feed to last the winter wouldn't be available because the drought-dormant grasses wouldn't grow for another cutting.

"(The livestock and hay producers in Florida) were not putting up any hay for the winter," he said. "With the rains of the past two weeks, the situation has lessened in severity. We still may be short this winter, because they haven't put up as much hay as normal," Monroe said.

What the FDACS is doing is organizing a list, or directory, of people who have hay available for sale, and getting that list to potential buyers who can negotiate the terms between themselves.

The directory is to be on the Florida Internet Homepage at www.fl-ag.com.

Postal service and telephone facsimile communications are also to be used to link those needing hay with those who have hay.

For those using the Internet

address, when the Florida Ag Department homepage appears, the user should go to the right part of the screen and scroll down to see a tractor and hay barn, and double click on that icon.

According to a Florida official, the homepage setup is such that if an illustration of a state is by itself, that's where the FDACS is entering directory address information. The last entry on the list being scrolled should be an emergency hay site that lists where the hay is to be available.

It's also possible to get information on the directory by sending a telephone facsimile to Florida at (850) 922-0374.

The information of hay availability can also be mailed to: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, The Capitol, Tallahassee, Fla., 32399-0800.

On June 25, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Bob Crawford wrote to Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Samuel Hayes Jr. and informed him of the problem and the local demand for hay.

"Many of our livestock producers have found it necessary to use hay supplies instead of pastureland to meet their animals' nutritional needs. Demand for hay is outpacing the supply within the state," Florida Commissioner Crawford stated in the letter.

"Please notify the hay producers in your state of the marketing

opportunity currently existing in Florida."

Unlike Pennsylvania's traditional marketing of hay through auctions, Florida doesn't have such marketing. The deals are to be made between producers and buyers.

According to Monroe, those who raise beef cattle in Florida are accustomed to using grass hay, because they can't afford alfalfa (because of low beef prices). "But the Florida horse industry uses high quality hay of every sort," he said, adding that the situation is similar with Florida's dairy producers, who also use alfalfa and other types of hay for feed.

Monroe said he couldn't supply a range of prices paid for hay. Instead, he said that those listed on the directory as having hay available can be contacted by a potential buyer and the prices can be worked out.

Steel worker Jack Mellon, of Montgomery County, said he picked up a load of hay from a South Carolina retired veterinarian who supplied 86 large bales out of the 500 he had. Mellon took the 45,000 pounds of hay to Florida and then came back home.

Mellon said he heard about the need for hay from listening to Public Radio.

He said he called around his county and was eventually lead to contact the state Department of

Agriculture, which put him in touch with the Florida Agriculture Department.

"We already delivered 45,000 pounds of hay. I tried to get hay locally, but had no luck. I picked up hay in South Carolina and took it to Florida," he said. "I'm not even in agriculture."

He said that half of the load of hay he transported went to Flagler County, and the other half went to Valusia County.

"It was quite interesting," Mellon said. "We did a lot of driving, obviously. We were shocked at the amount of damage. We literally drove over two hours and could see evidence of the fires, and the people who were receiving the hay are most grateful. Anyone up here who could help, it's greatly appreciated."

He said he isn't planning to make another run, but fortunately, he was able to make use of his business's trucks to haul the hay.

"The trucks were the only common denominator (I have with hay delivery), and the will to help them," Mellon said.

Mellon said that it started raining for the first time as they were delivering the load of hay. He said he brought the heat back north with him.

4H *****
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