

Fuls Family Sweeps Lebanon Beef Show

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Lancaster Farming Staff
NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) — Before he displayed the Lebanon Area Fair Beef Show supreme market champion, Justin Fuls suspected he had the winner by a hair.

Actually by a lot of hair. When the champion, an Angus-Maine Anjou crossbred named "Bandit" was only a calf, Justin liked how the calf looked "thick and pretty," he said. "At that time, it had a lot of hair on it," he said. "The hair was thick and long."

Justin also knew a lot about the sire, and suspected the calf could potentially take home the trophy.

Justin, 15, son of Kevin and Karen Fuls, Richland, is in the 10th grade at Conrad Weiser. His steer, Bandit, was the 1,318-pound winner of the heavyweight division at the market show Tuesday evening at the Lebanon Area Fair.

Bandit, sired by The Witch Doctor out of a crossbred dam, was purchased from Beth and Paul Wingard, Shippenville. Justin said he plans to show additional steers at several jackpot shows and at the Farm show. He won championship in the past at the fair.

Justin's sister Heather showed "Cosmo," a 1,190-pound Angus-Maine Anjou crossbred from the medium weight division to reserve champion.

(The Fuls family had a lot of success at the fair. Megan won champion market hog the day

before during swine show competition. Heather also won champion beef showman.)

Heather, 18, is a 1998 graduate of Conrad Weiser High School. She is in her freshman year at Penn State, studying animal science with an emphasis on beef production.

She picked Cosmos out as a calf. "He was little and no one thought he was any good," she said. "I took the chance."

Heather noted that, as a calf, like Justin's steer, it had "a lot of hair. It was very pretty, very stylish," she said.

Both Justin and Heather said the names for the steers just "came to them."

Heather had a banner day, picking up supreme champion heifer with her Angus summer yearling purebred, Weaverland Seniorita Cuba (S: GAR-Precision 1680, D: Weaverland Seniorita Havanah) from Larry Weaver, Weaverland Farm, New Holland. This is the first time Heather purchased a heifer from Weaverland Farm and her first beef champion at Lebanon Area Fair.

Show judge Brian Hrutkay, Bentleyville, Washington County, said the Angus heifer, a summer yearling, was an "extremely long-bodied, upheaded, showy type of female."

There were 35 contestants and about 30 market steers at the show.

Following is a list of show

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Market champion at the beef show was Justin Fuls, second from left. From left, Rebecca Shirk, Lebanon fair queen; Justin; Heather Fuls, reserve champion; and Brian Hrutkay, judge.

More Tobacco Meetings Set For Farmers Who Need Marketing Help

PARADISE (Lancaster Co.) — The effort to bring Pennsylvania tobacco growers together to market their crop is continuing this week as two more informational meetings have been announced by Jane Balmer, president of the Lancaster County Farm Bureau. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5, at the Martindale Fire Hall, located just off Route 322 between Ephrata and New Holland.

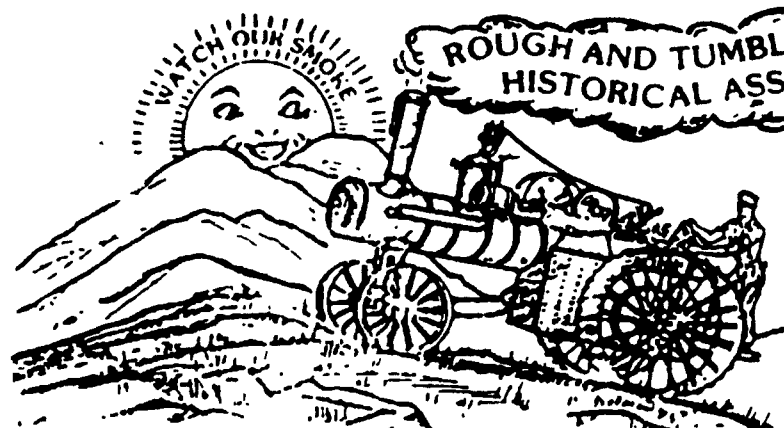
The next evening, August 6, a meeting will be held at Paradise Memorial Park on Londendale Ave. just north of Rt. 30 at the Leamon Place railroad bridge. Starting times for both meetings are 8 p.m.

These meetings are a continuation of a series of meetings that have been held to inform growers what options they may have in light of the present situation. Because much of the 1997 crop is still unsold and prospects for the 1998 crop now in the fields is unclear, Balmer is leading the effort to bring growers together.

Last Tuesday evening nearly 200 farmers gathered for such a meeting at the Paradise Tobacco Auction Barn. Lisa Eddington, managing director of the National Tobacco Council from Holly Springs, North Carolina, presented information on how local growers could create a growers association for greater Lancaster County. The Lancaster County Farm Bureau is leading the effort to organize this Pennsylvania Growers Association in order to have local control of tobacco prices, better manage trading practices, and keep farmers better informed of the current issues related to their tobacco crop and its related profit centers.

Other officials who have given support to this effort are Gerry Ely, cooperative business specialist from the U.S. Department of Agriculture; Charles Dull, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, director of commodity programs, and Robert Anderson of the Lancaster County extension service.

As the lawsuits, tobacco tax issues, and settlements are on-going, so are the opportunities for products and services that are generated as profit centers from tobacco growers. It is with this in mind that growers should attend one or more of these meetings, and they should also watch for additional meetings in their locality.



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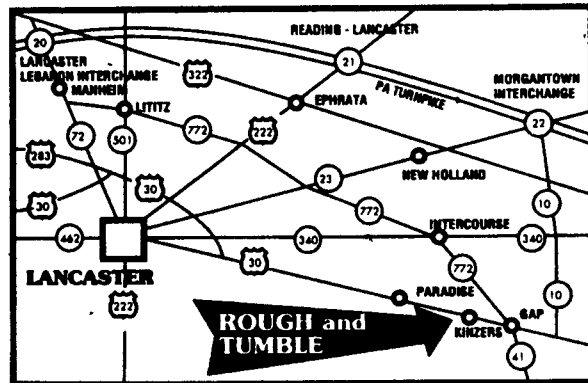
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