

Pilot Program To Place Focus

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the possibilities of conducting a similar contest at the state Farm Show within the next several

years, noted Falter.

"What we're teaching is the 4-H'ers' general knowledge of their project area — what it takes

to raise a market animal," he said.

The philosophy is at the "core" of 4-H membership, noted Falter: learn by doing.

Everyone has heard the tale of the judge at a large beef show in the state. When the judge asked the exhibitor what he fed the steer, the exhibitor "simply wouldn't know," according to Falter.

In Berks County, many exhibitors are learning a great deal about raising heifers, choosing members' farms to raise a project animal, according to Falter. By raising the animal, and participating in practice events such as the stockman's contest at the fair, the 4-H'ers can "beef up" on knowledge of what they're doing, and why.

At the practice contest last week, the 4-H'ers looked at placing hogs, sheep, and beef. They also identified jars of feed and species of animals.

According to Weist, the objectives of the skillathon are to:

- Provide a learning laboratory which will enhance knowledge of the beef, sheep, and swine industries.
- Help youth feel more comfortable communicating with an adult.
- Gain self-confidence and skills in one-on-one communications.
- Develop responsibility of completing a project.
- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Provide additional opportunities to recognize youth for their

accomplishments.

The skillathon in Berks County will be conducted at various dates. They include: Sheep Club, Sept. 20 at the Reading Fair; Swine Club, Sept. 27 at the Berks County Ag Center; and Beef Club, Oct. 11

at the Berks County Agricultural Center. Berks County Roundup dates are sheep, Sept. 26; swine, Oct. 7; and beef, Oct. 14.

For more information about the skillathons and the roundups, call Darlene Weist at (610) 926-6127



According to Weist, the objectives of the skillathon include providing a learning laboratory which will enhance knowledge of the beef. One contestant identifies beef breeds.



A point system to identify the outstanding member will be based on the member placings in competition. Of that score, 40 percent will come from the skillathon, 40 percent on animal placing, and 20 percent on showmanship. Here, Shayna Hertzog, 10, and Melissa Schule, 9, examine their beef placings.

Contest (Continued from Page A26)

Intermediate 1 winners included, first place, Jill Neiman, Fleetwood, and, second place, Cathryn Levan, Hamburg. Intermediate 2 included first place, David Neagley, Elizabeth-

ville and second place to Jayson Harpster, Pa. Furnace. Junior champions included Jason Levan, Hamburg and second to Jennifer Rudy, Halifax.

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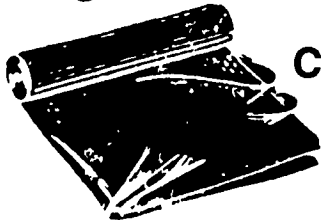
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