



John Messick of Middletown took home \$1,300 for his reserve champion steer purchased by Hoss's Steak and Sea House represented by Rob Billet, his children Shawndy and Jordan, and a friend Shawn. Fair Queen Sarah Wolgemuth holds the commorative plaque.

Homework Pays Off At Livestock Sale

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — The usual emotions of tears, joy, disappointment, worry, and fear fluctuated during the annual livestock sale held at the Elizabethtown Fair last Thursday evening.

After months of preparing their show animals and appeals to buyers to purchase their show animals, exhibitors nervously awaited the thud of the gravel and the auctioneer's singsong of the final bid.

This year in particular, sellers were wary of potential bids. The market did not look good with the promised paybacks of only 32 cents for hogs, 57 cents for steers, and 75 cents for goats.

"But it really pays off for kids who do their homework," said Deb Hess, fair director.

"Homework" means that kids must write letters and contact business people and other potential buyers to come to the livestock auction and bid on the animals.

Hesses own children influenced buyers from as far away as New Jersey to attend the E-town sale.

"Kids must realize that they need more than one buyer," Hess said of the importance of the runner-up bid.

Generally the champion animals garner the top bids, but not always. Sometimes if more than one bidder takes an interest in an exhibitor or in generating interest for the fair, the prices rise dramatically.

This year in a frenzy of bidding excitement, Brian Geib's goat sold for more than the champion and reserve champion steers, an unusual event.

Dorothy Heistand paid \$2,100 for the goat then donated it back to the auction to be resold with the profits going towards disaster relief.

"I bought it in memory of my husband," Heistand said of her hefty bid. "My husband Walter always took an interest in Brian's dad (Earl Geib) and bid on his projects. I'm just carrying on the tradition."

According to reports, Conestoga Auction was the competing bidder.

For whatever reason, the \$2,100 bid helped ease the pain Brian felt



This goat shown by Brian Geib of Manhelm must be one of the costliest goats ever. Mrs. Walter Heistand paid \$2,100 for it then donated it back to the auction where it sold for another \$250 to be given to Church of the Brethren Disaster Relief. Fair Queen Sarah Wolgemuth holds the commorative plaque.



Jim Adams of Wenger Feeds pays \$700 for the champion hog exhibited by Elizabeth Bard of Elizabethtown. Fair Queen Sarah Wolgemuth holds the commorative plaque.

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