

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff
KUTZTOWN (Berks Co.) — A 4-year-old exhibited by Melissa Bicksler, Bernville, won grand champion of the Holstein show Wednesday afternoon at the Reading Fair at the Kutztown Fairgrounds.

Paul Miller, Harrisburg, a Holstein breeder for 45 years, chose the 4-year-old shown by Melissa, Tom-Cat Horton Jewel (S: To-Mar Horton-ET, D: Double-B-B Starbuck Jolly) champion.

Miller chose the junior 2-year-old for reserve champion, shown by Mike Davis for Ray and Frances Davis, Leesport. The reserve is JMJ-Springpond Donaro Judy (S: 2242363, D: 15481416).

In the junior portion of the show, grand champion went to Bradley Younker, Fleetwood, and the reserve to Crystal Miller, Hamburg.

At the Jersey Show, grand champion went to Travis Mast, Oley, with his junior 3-year-old, Limekiln Lester Oley (S: Lester, D: Oprah). Reserve was awarded to the 3-year-old shown by Jill Neiman, Fleetwood, JMJ Imperial Cranberry-P (S: Meadow Lawn J. Imperial, D: Irish Creek Bernard Raspberry-P).

This is the fourth year in a row that the Reading Fair has been held at the Kutztown Fairgrounds until the completion of the new Reading Fairgrounds Complex at the 4-H and extension center in Leesport.

There were 170 animals entered in the entire dairy show and 50 exhibitors. In the Holstein portion alone, there were 90 animals and 30 exhibitors.

Following is a list of show placings.

(Turn to Page A23)



Ayrshire champions on Wednesday at Reading Fair. From left, Andy Youse with the reserve junior champion, Amy Wolfgang holding the junior champion, Judge Paul Miller, reserve Ayrshire champion held by Jill Vail, and Vail's grand champion Ayrshire held by Cindy Bray. In front of Jill is LI Dairy Miss Brittany Haag.

This was the first time Melissa Bicksler won for a Holstein at the Reading Fair (she said she won a couple of years ago with a Brown Swiss). Melissa, 21, is the daughter of Thomas and Cathy Bicksler, Bernville. Melissa recently completed a three-year registered nursing degree program at Reading Hospital School of Nursing. She's a 1995 graduate of Tulpehocken High School.

Melissa noted that the judge liked the 4-year-old cow's large dairy frame and "she walked very well," she said. This was despite a long effort to get the cow to recover from a pinched nerve while calving in June 1997 from having a really big calf (which placed high, by the way, at the fair). For some time, the 4-year-old champion of the Reading Fair limped on her left back leg, but Melissa was able to work with the cow and coax her back to health, and to a championship.

Show judge Paul Miller told the exhibitors at Reading that he had judged some fairs during the summer, and that "this is the nicest group of junior animals that came out of any of the fairs." He enjoyed the "stylist heifer" exhibited by Jessica Luckenbill, Bernville, Cor-Phil Marsue (S: Marshfield Elevation Tony, D: Cor-Phil Valiant Suzie), the fall yearling heifer, champion of the open and junior portions of the show. In the open show, the fall heifer calf exhibited by Suzie Satizahn, Bernville, Cor-Phil Lindy Ricotta (S: Townson Lindy-ET, D: Cor-Phil Lincoln Roxey) won reserve.

In the junior show, Miller chose the "beautiful calf," he said, shown by Brent Schuler, Fleetwood, D-S-Pine-Lawn Astre Luise (S: Duregal Astre Starbuck-ET, D: D-S-Pine-Lawn Horton Lorton), a fall heifer calf, as reserve of the junior portion of the show.

Following are descriptions of winners of the colored breeds at the Reading Dairy Show during the contest Wednesday afternoon at the Kutztown Fairgrounds.

Colored Breeds

In the Ayrshire competition, Miller picked the senior 2-year-old shown by Jill Vail, Myerstown, Allmine Heligo's Ambrosia (S: Bonnie Brae Heligo, D: Timberlawn Revenge Annabel) as champion.

Reserve went to the 4-year-old shown by Vail, Myline Trident's Reebok (S: Ardrossan Ev Kates Trident, D: S&M Ayr Reliabilities Rebella).

In the Brown Swiss competition, grand champion also went to Vail, a 4-year-old named Myline Dotson Ambition (S: K Top Acres Dotson ET, D: Kellay View Doll Ashley Twin). Reserve went to the 4-year old shown by Melissa Bicksler, Bernville, for North-Kill Creek Olga (S: R-Han-Simon Ensign, D: Northkill Creek N Opal).

In the Guernsey show, grand champion was shown by Karen Sterner, Bechtelsville, a senior 3-year-old, Liseter Farm Victors Hillary (S: 601158, D: 2976131). Reserve went to the senior 2-year-old shown by Nathan Phillips, Mertztown, Stone Mill Jay Hope (S: Rozelyn Prince Jay-ET, D: Stone Mill Jasper).

