

West Snyder FFA Wins SUN Area Judging Events

BEAVER (Beaver Co.) — The SUN Area FFA Dairy and Livestock Judging career development events were held Tuesday, Sept. 22, at the Beaver Community Fair.

In the dairy judging event, contestants judged two classes of Holsteins, a class of Brown Swiss cows, and a class of Jersey summer yearlings. Oral reasons were given on the Brown Swiss cow class.

On an individual basis, Jennifer McWilliams and Melissa McWilliams placed first and third, respectively, with blue ribbons. Sandy Opdyke was the third member of the first place team. She earned a red ribbon.

West Snyder Team B consisted of Jonathan Hackenberg, Kathy Fry, and Valerie Snook. They earned white ribbons.

The livestock judging team judged market steers, market hogs, market lambs, and breeding sheep. Oral reasons were given on the market hogs.

In the livestock judging event, Michele Fetterolf and Brandon Herman placed first and second respectively with blue ribbons. Heather Hollenbach was third member of the first place team. She earned a red ribbon. Team B consisted of Chris Foor, Brian Keister, and Brandon Heckman. Chris and Brian earned red ribbons and Brandon earned a white ribbon.



First-place SUN Area FFA livestock judging team from West Snyder, front row, from left, Heather Hollenbach and Chris Foor. In back, from left, Brandon Herman, Brian Keister, and Michele Fetterolf.



First-place SUN Area FFA dairy judging team from West Snyder, front row, from left, Jen McWilliams and Melissa McWilliams. In back, from left, Kathy Fry, Valerie Snook, and Jonathan Hackenberg.

Farm Bureau Reviews Year At Meeting

BETHANY (Wayne Co.) — The Wayne County Farm Bureau (WCFB) reviewed numerous topics at its annual dinner meeting at Bethany United Methodist Church recently.

Russell Gunton, of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, offer more than 60 members a message of encouragement. Agriculture is still the industry in Pennsylvania, directly employing one out of every five residents. Last year's Pennsylvania Agricultural exports reached a six-year high at \$987.9 million. The commonwealth continues to actively pursue expansion — 100,000 pounds of Pennsylvania's poultry products were recently sold to Japan.

WCFB awarded scholarships to four area teachers to attend an intensive week of "Ag in the Classroom" at Penn State. This in-

formative program is meant to bring the message of agriculture back to the students.

Two of this year's recipients addressed the membership. Nancy Dadig, a science teacher at St. Vincent's School, expressed gratitude for the eye-opening experience and plans to incorporate the materials from the hands-on experience into her lesson plans. Her class will be working with the hydroponics experiment kit as well as recreation of a white rat experiment that will demonstrate the positive effect of milk consumption.

Sue Delling, principal and math teacher also of St. Vincent's reiterated how important it is for the children to realize where their food comes from. The data and statistics she gathered while visiting various farms and orchards will be incorporated into her 8th grade math classes. In cooking class, students made old-fashioned ice cream.

County Commissioner Tony Herzog, commented on the disappointing turn of events associated with the Northeast Dairy Compact. The democratic process was sidetracked by one official who

was able to stall the bill in committee. On a positive note, Commissioner Herzog congratulated the group on the recent passage of ACT 50, Local Tax Reform issue. He felt strongly that improving property tax relief for farmers is a very important issue.

In regional news Jeff Groves reported the "Farmer to Farmer" program is successful. Farmers seek to establish good rapport with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in order to develop mutual understanding and maintain open communication lines.



Agco Dealers Get Training

ATLANTA, Ga — Agco dealers got a first-hand look at the new Fieldstar Precision Farming System, with all the trimmings, during a series of training sessions held across the Midwest this spring.

"If you can point and touch, you can use Fieldstar," said Craig Fenstermaker, who along with Dion Hake, conducted the training sessions. Fenstermaker and Hake are Agco product specialists covering Iowa and Illinois.

"Fieldstar is the most comprehensive, tested, and user-friendly precision farming system on the market today," Fenstermaker told the dealers. "Better yet, it's the most accurate system out there."

He points to Fieldstar's four exclusive features that keep the system in step with the accuracy and convenience needs of the growing trend to precision farming:

- Touch screen display, called the "DataTouch™" command center, that lets operators monitor harvesting data and combine performance with just the tap of a finger

- Large screen display area for easy monitoring of data — largest display on the market.

- Unique marker system that lets the combine operator mark and map specific portions of the field, such as weed patches and wet spots, for follow-up management.

- Optional in-cab printer for producing instant "hard copy" records while "on-the-go."

The Fieldstar precision farming system is available for Agco brand combines including rotary and conventional models of Gleaner and selected models of Massey Ferguson.

"I think it's the wave of the future," said dealer Don Koshatka, of Clet Koshatka Farm Equipment in Protivin, Iowa.

"The Fieldstar system has a lot of experience behind it. They've improved on the technology, and, according to the charts and graphs we reviewed, this system exceeds what's in the marketplace.

"We have a farmer who's already purchased one for a new MF8780 rotary combine," he said.

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