

Farm Show Is A Family Affair

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Adams Co. Correspondent

LITTLESTOWN (Adams Co.) — Brother Chris Jeffcoat, 15, and sister, Missy Jeffcoat, 12, will be among the Adams County 4-H youths competing in the 1999 Pennsylvania State Farm Show.

The two live near Littlestown with their parents David and Deb Jeffcoat and attend school in the Littlestown School District, where Chris is in FFA.

Chris is the seasoned veteran in show competition, while Missy will be competing in her first state Farm Show.

Does that make her nervous? Looking out from under the visor of her baseball cap she shrugs her shoulders and quietly says, "No, not really."

After all, she did take reserve grand champion 4-H steer at the 14th Annual Adams County 4-H Beef Show and Sale at the South Mountain Fairgrounds earlier this year. And last year, too.

She also took first place in the senior division fitter/showman and was champion of the middleweight division in the same competition.

In the 4-H show, Chris has the reserve champion in the heavyweight division.

For Chris, 1999 will be his second year at the state Farm Show and in 1998 he competed in the breeder show in Huntingdon, where his Angus was chosen reserve champion spotlight heifer, and the Keystone International, eastern regional, and the South Mountain Fair.

"I like showing heifers and going out in the ring and getting to compete. I like to show the heifers," Chris said.

The two youngsters will also enter animals in the swine competition. This is a first for both of them, Chris said, although he did take champion senior showman in the Adams County Swine Show in August.

What is the benefit of such competition for a young person? Chris said, "I get the experience of meeting new people and going out and learning to do different things. You learn how to keep the records, too."

His mother, Deb said, "I think they learn how to win and to lose because they've lost already and they learn how to lose too."

Chris hopes that after graduation he'll stay on the farm and raise Angus, but college could also be part of the future for him.

Missy believes she can account for her success in the show ring by the amount of time she spends with her animals. "I just work with them every day," she said.

During competition, the family goes to the Farm Show during the day, but comes home at night. "It makes for an early morning," Deb said. The youngsters' father, David, a self-employed carpenter, gets credit for hauling the animals to all the competitions, his wife said with a chuckle.

Missy, who also plays softball, and Chris are members of the Adams County 4-H Beef Club, the Swine Club, and the Community Club.

In the Community Club, Chris does gardening and wood-working, while Missy has done tin punch and woodworking.

After a day in school the



Chris and Missy show the heifers they will be taking to the Farm Show. They will also enter Duroc hogs in the swine competition.

youth can usually be found working with their heifers. While Missy noted that as part of her chores she helps feed the cows, Chris said the two also spend time with their heifers.

"We get them out and wash them every night and blow them off" to get them used to the nec-

essary grooming for the shows. And there are no professionals used — the kids fit their own animals.

And on the day when the animals are sold at the Farm Show auction, don't expect them to be stoic. "There will be tears," their mother said.



David and Deb Jeffcoat and their children Chris and Missy with their dog, Buck. The children's competition in the state Farm Show is a family affair for the Jeffcoats.



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