

Farm Show Dairy Judge Enjoys Both Sides Of The Ring

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judge, I would judge everyone fairly, whether I knew them or not," Day explained. "The best cow should always win, and I've tried to stick to that principal."

Fortunately Day has never had a complaint from any dairy exhibitors about his placings. "I believe that when an exhibitor comes to a show, they have to place their confidence in the judge," said Day.

"As exhibitors, my family has never complained to a judge about a placing. I tell my children that we go knowing our animals will be placed, and we have to accept the placings we get."

Day and his wife, Ann, have three children who have all competed in the dairy arena for several years. Matthew (age 21), David (age 19), and Sarah (age 17) help ease the cost of showing, which Day claimed can be expensive.

"If the kids didn't help, it would be difficult to keep showing because of the labor, fuel, and feed cost."

Now that Matthew and David attend Cornell University in New York, the Days don't even have to hire professional fitters anymore. "The boys swap labor with their friends from other states during show season," explained Day. "They help out their friends at their local shows, and their friends help us out at ours."

The Days typically show each year at the Pennsylvania Spring Holstein Show, South Central Holstein Show, Pennsylvania Fall Holstein Show, and the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wi. They even exhibit occasionally at the

Pennsylvania Farm Show, taking Supreme Champion in 1995.

"We pick the shows where we exhibit based on the weather, time of year, and whether or not we have animals at the right stage for the show," explained Day.

Both showing and judging dairy cattle is an essential part of the Days' dairy operation. "Judging is an outlet for me and an opportunity to meet new people," said Day. "I find it both challenging and fun."

His son, Matthew, has followed in Day's footsteps by participating in collegiate and 4-H dairy judging contests. In 1998, Matt was sixth high individual in the collegiate contest at Madison, placing fifth in reasons. At Harrisburg, he was second high individual, placing first in reasons.

According to Day, an exhibitor can get as much exposure for their animals at the Pennsylvania Farm Show than at any show. "The Farm Show probably has more ringside spectators than at any other show. It is an excellent opportunity to make a good impression on the public."

Day is hoping to find a microphone at this year's dairy show. "Judges should be able to give their reasons for the benefit of both the spectators and the show exhibitors. Many of the spectators at the Farm Show don't understand what we're doing out there, and it's an excellent opportunity to educate them."

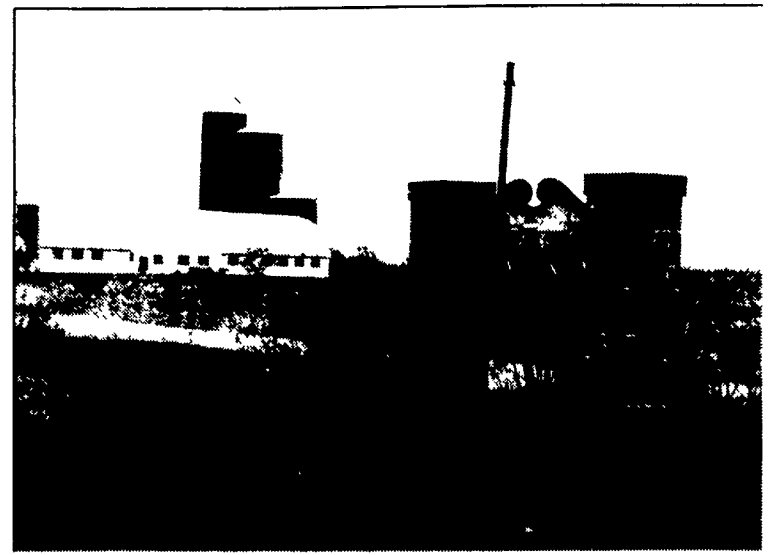
Because the opportunity to educate the public, Day also feels it's important for dairy exhibitors to present a uniform image during the show. "I like to see all of the exhibitors dressed in white and have encouraged Pennsylvania to enforce that policy at its shows."

Curtis and Ann own Tri-Day Farm in Shippensburg, where they milk 65 head of registered Holsteins. The Days market their cattle both privately and at public sales.

To Day, there isn't much difference between the shows that he has judged. "It's always fun to see the people at the shows."

"One thing will be different about this year's Farm Show," explained Day. "It will probably be the first dairy cattle show anywhere in the country during the new millennium."

Only three judges will be able to say that they judged the first dairy show of 2000. Day is one of them. And, according to him, "that's pretty exciting."



Tri-Day Farms in Shippensburg has become well-known for having high pedigree Holsteins in both the showing and sale arenas.



Day stands with Tri-Day Adeen II, a senior 2-yr.-old and one of four full sisters that the Days showed during 1999.

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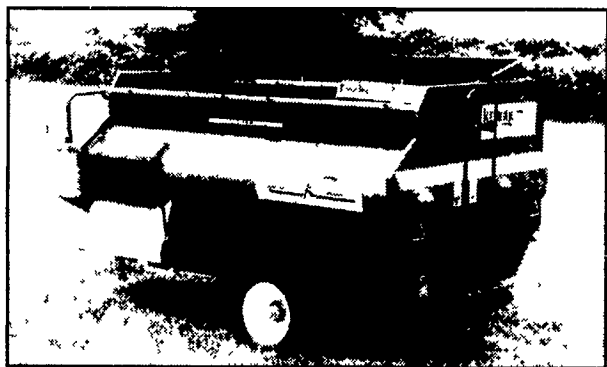
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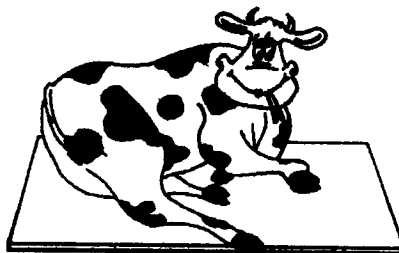


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