

Brown Swiss Wins Top Honors At Farm Show Dairy Show

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York Co. were awarded reserved champion Guernsey with their five year old

In the Holstein breed, Hickory Green B Star Patty, a five year old owned by Scott Walton of Cumberland Co. took grand champion. A four yr old owned by Robert Gitt of Adams Co. took reserved champion

Melissa Wolfe of Northumberland Co. took both grand and reserved champion of the Milking Shorthorn show. Plumside Snowflake, a senior two year old took grand, while Melissa's junior three year old took reserved champion.

The reserved champion Brown Swiss was a five year old owned by James Kennedy of Butler Co., while a junior three year old Jersey owned by Curtis Reichard of Franklin Co. was awarded reserved champion Jersey.

Also honored during the show were premier breeders and exhibitors in each breed. In the Ayrshire show, both titles went to Audrey Gay Rodgers of Plum Bottom Farm in Mifflin Co.

The Brown Swiss premier breeder and exhibitor titles went to the James Kennedy family,

who own Four Seasons Farm in Butler Co. Rutters Brothers Dairy from York Co. was named both premier exhibitor and premier breeder for the Guernsey breed.

In the Holstein breed, the Walton family, who own Tower Vue Farm in Cumberland Co., received the premier exhibitor title, while the Doll family of Dar-Dale Farm in York Co. won premier breeder.

Both premier breeder and exhibitor of the Jersey show went to J. Craig and Susan E. Whicker of Centre Co.

Brian Scholl of Dauphin Co. received premier exhibitor of the Milking Shorthorn show, while the Whiting family from Designer Genes Farms in Butler Co. took premier breeder.

For the Heilingers, earning the title of supreme champion "felt great." According to judge Curtis Day's remarks to the audience at the end of the show, "Norm" is an animal that stands out as "just what you're looking for in a dairy cow."

The Heilingers own 250 head of Brown Swiss with 100 milking. Although the animals are in Bruce's name, Laura does most of the showing for the family. She has been showing



The Heilingers of Lebanon Co.'s Brown Swiss took supreme champion of the 2000 Farm Show dairy show. From far left are Lori Connelly, Pennsylvania Dairy Princess; Laura and Bruce Heilinger, along with their daughter Emily; and Pennsylvania Secretary of Ag Sam Hayes, Jr.



Audrey Gay Rodgers received reserved grand champion Ayrshire, while James Findley's Ayrshire received grand champion.



The Milking Shorthorn championship went to Melissa Wolfe, who is holding her grand champion animal while her father holds Melissa's reserved champion Milking Shorthorn.



Champions of the Guernsey show included (from left) Rutters Brothers who received reserved grand champion and Aaron Gable who received grand champion.

since she was a kid in 4-H. "We show because it's a lot of fun," said Laura.

Several youth members were in this year's grand champion line up. Gable, Walton, and Wolfe also took grand champion in the youth division of their perspective breeds.

For Melissa Wolfe, who took both grand and reserved champion of the Milking Shorthorn breed, winning the championship was a shock.

"It really feels good to win," said Wolfe. "Especially since my grand champion was bred and owned."

"Snowflake" is the first bred and owned animal that Wolfe has shown. Wolfe had four animals at the show. Three of those animals won championship titles.

"I'm following in the family tradition," said Wolfe, whose father showed when he was young. Melissa's sister, Alicia, also showed at Farm Show.

Aaron Gable was also honored to have won grand champion this year. For seven of the past eleven years, Gable has won the grand champion Guernsey of the youth division.

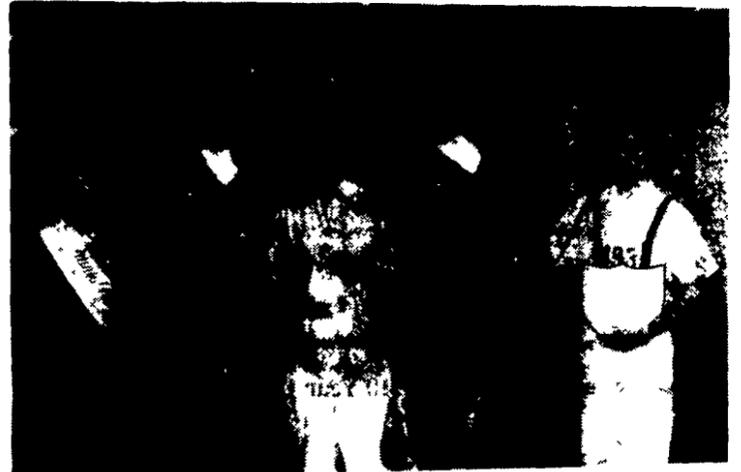
By winning grand champion youth, he also was awarded the Scwickley Guernsey Cattle Club Trophy, a huge silver trophy the travels from winner to winner and has the past winners' names inscribed on it.

Gable proudly displays the trophy in his living room. "It's such an elite trophy," said Gable. "It's really nice to have it in my house."

While Gable's family has been exhibiting at the Farm Show "forever", according to Gable, he has been showing for eleven years. "I like to win, but I enjoying showing more."

440 animals exhibited in this year's Dairy Cattle Show, which was the first dairy show anywhere in the new millennium. Judges included Curtis Day of Shippensburg in Cumberland Co., Michael Health of Westminster, Md., and William Schnebly of Clear Spring, Md.

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Pictured are the winners of the Holstein show. With Pennsylvania Alternate Dairy Princess Amanda Gilkinson are Steve Wood, holding Robert Gitt's reserved grand champion, and Scott Walton, holding the grand champion.



Jersey winners included (from left) Patricia Huff and her daughter with their grand champion cow, Curtis Reichard with his reserved champion, Pennsylvania Alternate Dairy Princess Rebecca Kilgore, and Pennsylvania Jersey Queen Meredith Bally.



From left are the champions of the Brown Swiss show — Justin Kennedy with the Kennedy's reserved champion and Laura Heilinger with grand champion.