

First Time's The Charm For Kready, Nolt

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just did for the showmanship class."

To aid 4-H and FFA participants, Brubaker hosted a short showmanship clinic during the afternoon beef shows.

"Your show stick should be pointed down and you should be at a brisk walk," began Brubaker. This "walking out" he said, is in contrast to the dairy ring, where exhibitors walk slowly and backward. "Walking

aggressively shows off the animal's stifle muscle," he said.

Brubaker emphasized control of the steer's head. He compared the strap to a gear shift. The animal should respond to the pulling up of the strap and the front feet should be placed on the stop.

The show stick should be a consistent motion, not a choppy sawing. "Don't overpower with the show stick to get their legs set," he said. The hook of the

show stick, said Brubaker, can be used to bring the loin down to set hips into the body to make the animal look thicker.

He also encouraged the taller participants to bend over and look less conspicuous behind their animals.

When the judge walks in front of an animal, recommended Brubaker, exhibitors should not switch their hands and lose that little bit of control. Instead, he suggested, simply step back to let the judge see the front view.

Brubaker also had tips concerning fitting. To flatten calves over the loin, clip the hair shorter to make them look thicker, he said. Also, pulling up the hair on the poll and tail head may accent a swaybacked animal.

Brubaker, a 40-head cow calf operator, is a resident of Berks County. Raised in Lancaster County, Brubaker competed at the Manheim Farm Show for 10 years. He has judged sheep and beef competitions at the New York State Fair and various community fairs.



Showmanship winners included Cheryl Ginder, Mount Joy; Matt Quenzer, Manheim; Jason Hollinger, Manheim; and overall champion showman Todd Zurin, Manheim.



Pa. Agriculture Secretary Encourages Support For Montana Farmers

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Samuel E. Hayes Jr. recently urged Pennsylvania farmers and agribusinesses to help Montana farmers and ranchers affected by the forest and range fires earlier this year by contributing to the "I Care a Ton" emergency hay and forage program.

"Last year, Pennsylvania farmers faced similar circumstances as a result of the drought of 1999," Hayes said. "When our farmers suffered through one of the worst droughts of the century, we received assistance from other states, and now we should return the favor to help those who are in need in Montana."

The Montana Department of Agriculture, the Montana Farm Bureau Federation, and the Montana Department of Livestock are working together to coordinate the relief effort. They seek donations of hay, pasture, fencing supplies, transportation, or monetary contributions. More than 1,200 tons of hay were donated to Montana producers

during the first week of the "I Care a Ton" program, following its announcement on Aug. 25.

Montana officials estimate there will be a 1.2 million ton shortage of hay by next spring, because of the fires and an ongoing drought. Transportation needs are as great as the need for hay. In many cases, producers from neighboring states have hay to donate, but are unable to move it from their farms to the Jamestown, N. D., drop point. Contributions of trucking services and funds designated for trucking have become a high priority.

The Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad has donated the use of 50 boxcars to move incoming hay from the drop-off point in Jamestown to aid in this transportation problem. Agribusinesses and farmers who wish to contribute to this tax-deductible program may contact the Montana Farm Bureau Federation at (406) 587-3153. Additional information about this assistance program also can be found at www.mfbf.org or at the "I Care a Ton" website at www.icareaton.org.



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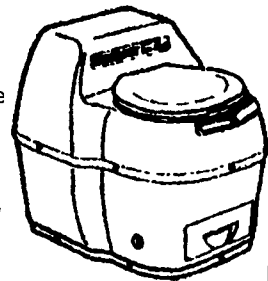
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