

'Berry' Great Prices For Strawberry Quarts

LOU ANN GOOD
Food And Family
Features Editor

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Prices for strawberries vary throughout the season, but George Kratzert's payment of \$300 for a quart spiked the high side.

"I wanted good quality berries to serve strawberry sundaes in my restaurant (Scoops Ice Cream and Grill, Mountville) and to

help out the kids," Kratzert said of his reason for giving the top bid at the Lancaster County 4-H Rotary Roundup.

Grower of the prize-winning berries was Mark Lefever, Quarryville, who was one of 53 4-H participants in the annual event.

Rotary members pay top dollar to the entrepreneurs, who range in age from 8-18, in order to "affirm young people and their commitment to hard work and busi-

ness ventures."

More 4-H'ers participated in strawberry projects than ever before, according to Katina Showman, county 4-H agent.

Mark isn't revealing the secret for growing prize-winning berries. He said, "It's a secret, I can't tell."

But the 11-year-old did say that he has 100 plants of three different varieties. He entered Earliglow because they taste sweeter.

The son of Wayne and Janice Lefever put the \$300 in savings for a car.

Competition was divided into three categories. Nineteen first-year members presented well-kept project books recording time, effort, and expense. In the first-year division were 25 entries, and 11 4-H'ers qualified for the experienced category with two or more years as an exhibitor.

"The bad part is that you don't get any berries the first year of growing," Jillian Fletcher said. Those first year blossoms must be picked off and discarded to ensure a better yield the following year.

Jillian did all the work of preparing the patch, weeding, watering, and pampering 25 plants last year without any enumeration. But this year, it paid off. The 12-year-old received \$200 for a

quart of berries from Andrew Appel, a lawyer.

Her secret: "Don't have bunnies." She explained that her friend Megan Parsons grew berries, but wild rabbits devoured them, and Megan had none to enter in the competition.

Jillian, daughter of Michelle and Dean Fletcher, said her neighborhood has many dogs whose barking and chasing keep rabbits away.

"But my dog loves eating strawberries," Jillian said.

Fortunately, her dog doesn't raid the berry batch, but waits for Jillian to pick them and serve them to him.

Jillian's mother attributed the size and flavor of the berries to the compost used in the berry patch. "It's organic and we made it ourselves," she said.

Although this was the first year, Jillian entered, she had an older brother and sister who previously competed, and her mom is the 4-H leader for the Mountville 4-H Berry Club.

Kenton Bucher received \$100 for showing the reserve champion berries in the experienced division. Some of his five brothers and a sister previously placed in the top two placings. Kenton, son of Kenneth and Evie Bucher, said that he has 50 plants on the family's Manheim farm.



Wayne Kratzert paid \$300 for this box of strawberries. With them, he served strawberry sundaes at Scoops Ice Cream and Grill, Mountville. Kenton Bucher received \$100 for showing the reserve berries in the experienced category.

"Sometimes I get tired of picking berries," Kenton said. It's no wonder. He picked from 5 a.m.-8:30 a.m. the morning of the competition.

Josiah Rohrer, 11, placed second in the first exhibitor category. The son of Kevin and Audrey Rohrer, Manheim, sold his berries to Herr Manufacturing for \$80.

Judges for the berry and project book competition were Rudy Grove, Lew Middleton, and Gerald Groff. Auctioneer was Harold Keller, Mount Joy.



Jillian Fletcher sells her berries to Andrew Appel for \$200. Josiah Rohrer sells his for \$80 to Richard Herr of Herr Manufacturing.

FURNITURE

CLOSED SUNDAYS, NEW YEAR, EASTER MONDAY, ASCENSION DAY, WHIT MONDAY, OCT. 11, THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS & DECEMBER 26TH

FISHER'S FURNITURE, INC.

NEW AND USED FURNITURE
USED COAL & WOOD HEATERS
COUNTRY FURNITURE & ANTIQUES

BUS. HRS. BOX 57
MON.-THURS. 8-5 1129 GEORGETOWN RD.
FRI. 8-8, SAT. 8-12 BART, PA 17503

Light Up Your Home With A Tubular Skylight

Natural Light

- Bright, pure, healthy light
- Little or no heat gain or loss
- Fits all roof types
- 10", 13", 18" equals up to 1,000 watts of light
- 25 year warranty

Have us install or ask for the Do-It-Yourself Kit.
Can be shipped UPS

MILLWAY HOME IMPROVEMENTS LLC

265 E. Meadow Valley Rd., Lititz, PA 17543
717-733-7160 • 717-627-6886
1-800-247-2107

VISA Financing Available MAC

SPECIAL SUMMER ISSUES

JULY 28, 2001

A Special Section Recognizing the Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Annual Winners for 2001

Advertisement Deadline Thursday, July 19

AG PROGRESS DAYS

Pre-Show Exhibitors and Features

AUGUST 11, 2001

Advertisement Deadline Thursday, August 2, 2001