

Cattle File Through Ring At Carbon County Fair

DEANNA CUNFER
Carbon Co. Correspondent
PALMERTON (Carbon Co.) — In a county not generally known for an abundance of cattle, either dairy or beef, the numbers to file through the ring at the Carbon County Fair recently was encouraging.

Carbon County sits at the threshold of the Poconos and has its southern end nestled between Schuylkill, Lehigh and Northampton counties — each having far more cattle numbers than Carbon. This year saw 39 dairy beef alone run through the sale ring at the Schuylkill County Fair.

Six years ago two Carbon 4-H members started the dairy beef project tailored after the program used by Schuylkill County. That first year was all it took to spark the interest of other members to complete the fast growing popular project. The dairy beef project is a perfect introduction for members who may have thoughts of someday going on to complete the market steer project.

The project involves the member taking possession of a neutered male dairy calf — no beef crosses — under the age of one week between Jan. 1 and Jan. 31 of the project year. The calf and member "grow" together in age, maturity and experience. The calf is raised to go into a feedlot and sold at weights between 500 and 700 pounds at the 4-H livestock sale that summer.

Since some families are not actively involved with raising beef animals it is much safer for their children to start with a week old calf than a 500-pound beef calf. The confidence the child gains by working with a young calf such as in the dairy beef project will prepare them to someday move onto the market steer project.

The project has grown over the past six years to the point where there were 13 dairy beef entered in the competition in Carbon County this year. The calves are purchased from dairies in Carbon, Schuylkill, Berks and Northampton counties.

Wendall Landis, director of beef quality assurance (BQA) for the Pennsylvania Beef Council, recently judged the entries of the dairy beef show at the Carbon County Fair.

Landis selected intermediate fitter Lee Shoenberger as his champion fitter with senior fitter Shanna Simmons taking the reserve champion fitter title. Simmons went on to be named the champion showman with junior member Christiana Graver selected as the reserve champion showman.

Graver's 651-pound Holstein, Oreo, was later named grand champion dairy beef of the show. The reserve champion title went to the 513-pound entry of Simmons. Hometown Farmers' Market purchased Graver's champion at the 4-H livestock sale for \$850 with the reserve champion of Simmons selling to Gap View Farms, Leighton, for the final bid of \$800.

Members completing the dairy beef project often move on to the market steer project. Such is the

case in Carbon County. Justin Cunfer, 17, one of the two members to start the dairy beef project six years ago, was Landis' selection for champion fitter and champion showman of the market steer competition.

Reserve fitter honors went to Josh Kemmerer, 17, with Simmons being named reserve champion showman. Both Cunfer and Kemmerer are seniors in the Leighton school district.

Cunfer has started his own herd of breeding beef with one of his home-bred calves being named the champion market steer. Landis described the 1,316-pound Angus cross of Cunfer as being a stout and ruggedly-made steer with great depth and dimension. Moses, the champion market steer, sold to Chas. S. Snyder Inc., Tamaqua, for \$1,425.

Simmons then saw her 1,224-pound Carbon bred Limousin steer rise to the reserve champion market steer spot. Simmons, a recent graduate of Leighton High School, has started her freshman year at Bloomsburg University studying accounting. The reserve champion of Simmons sold for \$1,200 to Albright's Mill, Kempton.

In the 4-H breeding beef competition, Cunfer was also named the champion fitter and champion showman. In the Angus division Cunfer's junior heifer calf, NDF Blackbird Bridget 101, a Jan. 2001 GAR Commitment daughter, was named the champion heifer calf as well as taking first place in the bred and owned heifer class.

His Jan. 2000 OCC Anchor 771A daughter, Weaverland Scaara Chafie, took the champion yearling heifer title and later moved on to the champion heifer spot of the 4-H and open breeding competition. Reserve champion heifer honors went to NDF Blackbird Bridget 101, the champion heifer calf.

In the open beef breeding competition Cunfer's Angus junior bull calf, the March 2001 son of Twin Valley Precision E161, NDF Precision Magnum 103, was named the grand champion bull calf and later the grand champion beef bull of the show by Landis. Cunfer's Nov. 2000 son of Keifer's Fullback, NDF Prince Fullback 003, took the reserve bull championships of the show.

In the first open dairy show of the newly-reorganized Carbon County Fair, Mike Swartley, herdsman in the bull production facility at Select Sires, selected the winter yearling heifer of Shelly Rex, Andreas, as his grand champion female of the Holstein show.

Swartley described Den-Al Fred Brook, who was first named the junior champion female, as a long bodied heifer. As his reserve junior champion and reserve champion female he selected the fall heifer, Ruch Durham Casey, owned by Caitlyn Ruch, also of Andreas.

The fair posted the following results.

4-H DAIRY BEEF FITTING AND SHOWMANSHIP
Senior fitters: 1. Shanna Simmons. 2. Kerry Shoenberger. 3. Josh Kemmerer
Senior showman: 1. Shanna Simmons. 2. Scott Cunfer. 3. Josh Kemmerer.
Intermediate fitters: 1. Lee Shoenberger. 2. Nicholas Simmons.
Intermediate showman: 1. Nicholas Simmons. 2. Lee Shoenberger. 3. Rebecca Cunfer.
Junior fitters: 1. Christiana Graver. 2. Luke Graver. 3. Taylor Patterson.
Junior showman: 1. Christiana Graver. 2. Luke Graver. 3. Taylor Patterson.
Champion fitter: Lee Shoenberger.
Reserve champion fitter: Shanna Simmons
Champion showman: Shanna Simmons.
Reserve champion showman: Christiana Graver

4-H DAIRY BEEF WEIGHT CLASSES
Lightweight: 1. Lee Shoenberger. 2. Kerry Shoenberger.
Heavy lightweight: 1. Shanna Simmons. 2. Josh Kemmerer. 3. Nicholas Simmons
Medium weight: 1. Luke Graver. 2. Nicholas Simmons. 3. Shanna Simmons
Light heavyweight: 1. Christiana Graver. 2. Taylor Patterson
Heavyweight: 1. Christiana Graver. 2. Luke Graver.
Champion dairy beef: Christiana Graver.
Reserve champion dairy beef: Shanna Simmons.

4-H MARKET STEERS FITTINGS AND SHOWMANSHIP
Senior fitters: 1. Justin Cunfer. 2. Josh Kemmerer. 3. Shanna Simmons
Senior showman: 1. Justin Cunfer. 2. Shanna Simmons. 3. Josh Kemmerer
Champion fitter: Justin Cunfer
Reserve champion fitter: Josh Kemmerer
Champion showman: Justin Cunfer
Reserve champion showman: Shanna Simmons

4-H MARKET STEERS WEIGHT CLASSES
Lightweight: 1. Shanna Simmons
Medium weight: 1. Justin Cunfer
Heavyweight: 1. Josh Kemmerer
Champion market steer: Justin Cunfer
Reserve champion market steer: Shanna Simmons
4-H BREEDING BEEF FITTING AND SHOWMANSHIP
Senior fitter: 1. Justin Cunfer
Senior showman: 1. Justin Cunfer

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Christiana Graver with her grand champion dairy beef of the Carbon County Fair. Wendall Landis, Pennsylvania Beef Council, judged the event. Graver was also named the reserve champion fitter of the dairy beef competition. Graver's animal was purchased by Hometown Farmers' Market for \$850.



Judge Wendall Landis holds ribbon after selecting the 1,316-pound home-bred entry of Justin Cunfer as the grand champion market steer at the Carbon County Fair. Chas. S. Snyder, Inc., Tamaqua, purchased the champion for \$1,425. Cunfer was named the champion fitter and champion showman of the market steer and beef breeding competitions.

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