

# Fourth Generation Of Miller Family Exhibiting At The 2002 Pa. Farm Show

## Clan Founded Baby Beef 4-H Club More Than Half Century Ago

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The Miller family of Fairyland Farms, Leighton, have been long-time supporters of the 4-H program in Carbon County. In fact the Miller name, particularly that of Robert "Bobby" Miller, is synonymous with Carbon County 4-H. When you mention to someone, whether at a county fair or

the Farm Show, that you are involved with Carbon County 4-H the reply most often is, "Oh-Bobby Miller!" It has even been said that they have green in their blood 4-H green. That dedication to the 4-H program spans four generations and travels with them to Harrisburg each January where this year we will see the fourth generation of the Miller family competing in the junior market swine competition.

Luke and Christi Graver will each compete in one of the purebred junior market swine classes.

Luke, 9, just completed his first year in 4-H where he exhibited in the market lamb, market swine, and dairy beef competitions. He is raising a purebred Landrace hog and a purebred Chester White hog, with plans to exhibit one of them at the Farm Show.

Christi, 12, just completed her fifth year in 4-H. She has participated in the market and breeding sheep, market swine, dairy beef, and market steer projects, and is making her fourth trip as exhibitor at the Farm Show.

Christi is raising a purebred Hampshire hog and a purebred Poland China hog. "Hamp" and "Poly" are both looking good and Christi will have a hard time deciding which will compete for the ribbons at this year's competition. Christi has received ribbons in the market swine rate of gain competition at the Farm Show with two of her previous entries and received a master showmanship hat and show cane with her purebred Poland China entry in 2000.

Luke and Christi are both members of the National Junior Swine Association and have aspirations of starting a breeding swine project in future years. Christi has started her own flock of breeding sheep but admits that she prefers the swine above all the animals she shows as 4-H projects.

Luke and Christi will not be the only members of the Miller family to exhibit animals at the 2002 Pa. Farm Show. Mother, Diane Miller-Graver, and grandfather, Robert L. "Bobby" Miller will again be competing in the carcass lamb competition.

On show day at the Farm Show one can usually see the whole Miller family at ringside.

The excitement of competing at the Pa. Farm Show started in the first half of the 20th century when brother and sister, Willis and Catherine Diehl, exhibited in the open dairy competition with their animals from the family's herd at Fairyland Farms. Willis went on to become a member of the dairy judging team at Penn State, while Catherine married John Miller. Together the Millers started the Baby Beef 4-H Club in Carbon County. One of the members of that club was son, Robert, known to all as Bobby.

In 1950 at age 13, Bobby exhibited his first steer at the Pa. Farm Show. This purebred Angus, "Black Boy," placed well enough to qualify for the sale of cham-

pions. Bobby recalls the sale, then held in the large arena.

Market steer competition in those days only consisted of purebred animals — Hereford, Angus, and Shorthorn. He recalls how there was a separate judge for

each breed. Often when it was time to select the overall champion there was quite a bit of disagreement as each judge wanted his breed selected as the supreme

(Turn to Page A37)



Robert L. "Bobby" Miller is shown with the showbox he won at the 1952 Pa. Farm Show when he was selected the grand champion fitter and showman in the purebred Angus market steer competition. Shown in the showbox is the exhibitor's green and white coverall that he wore during the show.



Diane Miller-Graver and her father, Robert L. "Bobby" Miller are shown with part of their flock of sheep at Fairyland Farms. Both have entered their carcass lamb competition at the Pa. Farm Show with their homebred animals since 1988.

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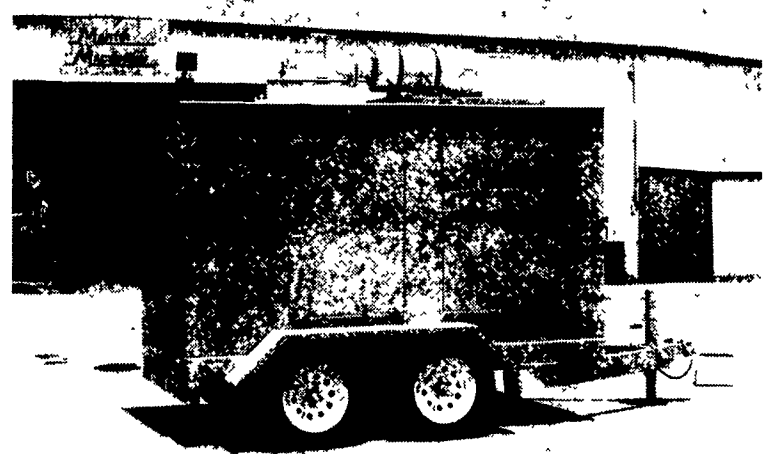
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