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Adams County Youth Prepare For Pennsylvania Beef Expo

DAVE LEFEVER

Lancaster Farming Staff

BIGLERVILLE (Adams Co.) — Youth from Adams County are going to be a major presence at this year's Pennsylvania Beef Expo.

The group of about 12 young people from the county's junior beef producers club have been grooming their animals and honing their beef knowledge in preparation for what is expected to be the largest expo since it began 14 years ago.

"It appears as though it will be the largest junior show ever," according to Glenn Eberly, director of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Livestock Evaluation Center. "It grows every year."

The expo is set for March 27-30.

"This is the first year Adams County is taking a lot of animals," said Donna Byers, mother of three Biglerville-area youth who will be showing heifers at the expo Saturday, March 29.

Altogether, beef enthusiasts from Adams County plan to exhibit about 16 head.

The Byers brothers — Derek, 15; Dwight 13; and Devin, 9 — will each exhibit a yearling Charolais heifer at the show.

Neighbor James (J.R.) Arter, 15, will also be taking a heifer from the Byers's farm.

The four youth attend the Gettysburg Area School District and are active in county 4-H activities.

According to Donna Byers, the goal of the Adams County Junior Beef Producers is to provide kids with a special focus on beef skills.

Beside raising and showing beef animals, the group's activities include participating in the Beef Quality Assurance program, studying meat cuts, and learning breed characteristics and breeding principles. Members are planning to participate in this year's skillathon and quiz bowl at the expo.

"This group of kids really wants to learn about the beef industry," Donna Byers said.

Mothers and fathers play a big part in promoting the youths' interest in beef. Parents of participating youth are members of the Adams County Beef Producers. The junior club grew out of this adult group of beef lovers.

The Byers brothers have also been active in showing their beef animals at local fairs and at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

At the 2002 Farm Show, Derek exhibited the champion junior Charolais heifer and Dwight



Preparing Charolais heifers for the Pennsylvania Beef Expo in State College are Biglerville youth, from left, Derek and Dwight Byers, J.R. Arter, and Devin Byers. Photo by Dave Lefever

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You Don't Need Cattle To Participate In Expo

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU

Lancaster Farming Staff

KENNETT SQUARE (Chesters Co.) — The Pennsylvania Beef Expo will be a girls' weekend out as the female members of the Walton family head to Penn State to be a part of the annual event.

In spite of the fact that their cattle are staying home, 4-H'ers Eliza and Leah Walton are planning to go to Happy Valley with their mother, Margaret, for the weekend to take part in the Skillathon and Quiz Bowl, among other cattle-related activities.

Eliza, 17, a senior at Unionville High School, plans to spend some time working behind the scenes for other exhibitors while Leah,

15, a sophomore at Unionville High School and Pennsylvania Angus Princess, will hand out ribbons during the show.

The Waltons, who also include father David and the girls' brother, Paul, 13, in seventh grade, own a 40-head cow-calf herd of registered purebred Angus. The Waltons market beef to local customers and sell club calves.

Their farm is a 300 acre family operation.

"I'm not taking them up because my cows aren't quite ready to be shown yet. I'm still working with them — one of them really hates show sticks and the rest need a lot of work leading and showing," said Leah.

Eliza, who has been very busy

with school and track, didn't have the time she wanted "to really start to work them," she said, so her show cattle will also stay home.

The weekend is worth the time, even without cattle to show. "Especially when I work for people up there," said Eliza, "I learn about how they handle their show string."

The expo also provides an opportunity to "see what kind of animals people are going to bring to the show — it's kind of a preview show for the rest of the year," said Eliza.

For instance, working for others offers the opportunity to learn

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March 27 - 30
Penn State Ag Arena

Pa. Beef Expo Begins March 27

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Junior Cattlemen's Association (PJCA) will conduct their 13th annual Junior Steer and Heifer Preview Show at the 14th annual Pennsyl-

vania Beef Expo, March 27-30, at the Penn State Ag Arena, State College.

The Expo is an opportunity for

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Wheat Scab, Mildew Controls Topic Of Field Day

ANDY ANDREWS

Editor

LANDISVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — Control of wheat diseases can be less of a challenge if crop

managers learn about how the troublesome organisms operate.

About 30 certified crop consultants and agri-industry representatives scrutinized two wheat diseases Wednesday during a Penn State-sponsored Wheat Scouting and Pest Management Field Day at the Landisville Research Center.

One disease, powdery mildew, can be controlled through proper resistant variety selection. Another, head scab, can be more of a problem, depending on field and environmental conditions before and after planting.

Management strategies, according to Eric DeWolf, Penn State assistant professor of plant pathology, must involve deciding whether the pathogens survive in typical corn residue. Also, the

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The Nolt family built this tiestall barn a year ago to expand their milking herd to 180 cows. The Nolt Farm was part of a recent Chester County Holstein tour to Lebanon. From left are Allen, Katelyn, Scott, Jessica, and Karen Nolt. See story page A21. Photo by Dave Lefever

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