

Woods Totals \$3,905 At FFA Livestock Sale



Shippensburg FFA member Matt Adams, right, sells his 1,110 pound grand champion market steer to Bill Campbell from Hoss's Steak and Seahouse for \$2,000.



Cumberland Valley FFA member Sherissa Brammer, center, holds her 71-pound grand champion market goat. Bill Campbell from Hoss's Steak and Seahouse, left, bought the animal and Cheryl Cook presented the award.

NICKI LEFEVER
Special Correspondent
SHIPPENSBURG (Cumberland Co.) — Mike Woods runs from pen to pen. The humidity makes his blond hair drip sweat.

Woods, a member of Cumberland Valley FFA, escorted seven animals into the auction ring at the 24th Annual Robert L. Finkenbinder FFA Livestock Sale at the Shippensburg Community Fair July 22.

His varied group of livestock from The Myers Family Dairy Farm, Mechanicsburg, included the grand champion market lamb, grand champion dairy beef steer, and a pair of grand champion market hogs.

"This was a very good year and a lot of fun," he said. "The judges were very impressed with my dairy beef steer and said it was ahead of the rest."

Woods' 1,300-pound dairy steer, Pedro, sold for \$1,075. His 129-pound market lamb sold to Bill Leib of Leib Southdowns and John Warner of Warner Painting for \$500.

He also sold a Dorset market lamb for \$325; a 1,275 pound reserve champion light-heavy-weight dairy beef steer, Bullet, for \$950; a champion light weight market goat, Belle, for \$275; a market goat, Pepper, for \$220; and a grand champion pair of market hogs for \$560.

This is the third year showing market animals at the FFA sale for the 17-year-old Cumberland Valley Senior and his seventh showing dairy steers.

"I grew up on my grandparents' dairy farm with the animals and that has been my job," he said.

His grandparents, Barb and George Myers, own Myers Family Farm, a 60-head, 150 acre dairy farm in Mechanicsburg.

Woods said his future plans include an ag education degree from Penn State University and raising meat goats on the side.

Woods was among 26 FFA members from Big Spring, Cumberland Valley and Shippensburg to show 92 heads of livestock and bring in \$38,812. Average prices for youth livestock at the sale were: beef, \$956; market lambs,



Mike Woods, right, sold his 129-pound grand champion market lamb to John Warner of Warner Painting, left, and Bill Leib of Leib Southdowns, center, for \$500.



From left, Pam McNew and Wayne Craig Sr., bought Jen Weaver's 245-pound grand champion market hog. Cheryl Cook presents the Shippensburg FFA member with her award.

\$258; market hogs, \$347; and goats \$248.

"Goats are the second most consumed red meat next to beef,"

Woods said.

Even though he raises goats and would like to continue, he said he never tried goat meat.

"I'd like to try it," he said.

Pa. Cattlemen's, Angus Associations Gather At Cyagra/Em Tran

CHARLENE M. SHUPP
Special Correspondent

ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — More than 275 beef cattle producers gathered at the Em Tran Facility in Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, to get an insight to the latest genetic tools and technologies at the 2003 Pa. Cattlemen's Association and Pa. Angus Association Field Day.

Alejandro Cantarelli, CEO of Cyagra, Em Tran's parent company, welcomed everyone to Em Tran by saying, "You (the visitors) make this day special. We are excited to have everyone here today and to introduce you to what we are doing today. This company has been in existence in excess of 20 years. (Recently, Cyagra) has been redefined as a biotechnology company, in anticipation of the future."

Visitors were able to tour the Em Tran facility and several cows in the Em Tran Embryo Transfer (ET) program and the newest additions, cloned calves born at the farm.

The keynote speaker, during the noon program, was Don Coover of SEK Genetics. He spoke about his experiences with cloning from a breeder and producer perspective.

Coover, remarked that cloning is a tool that can be useful to gain increased genetic impact from beef cattle. A breeder of club calves, he notes that one challenge is the quick turn around in the club calf industry, noting that "by the time you identify animals of importance, it's too late."

He said cloning will help genetics reach their full impact that otherwise would be lost.

Cyagra has successfully cloned five bulls of Coover's popular club calf sire, "Full Flush" and is waiting for approval by FDA to market their semen. His decision to clone this popular bull came after demand for semen of Full Flush exceeded the production.

Although a large investment is needed to begin the process to clone a calf, cloning provides a great marketing opportunity for a breeder.

Coover said, "If you have a great animal, you can sell the animal and still have the genetics."

Cloning is still in its early stages, which Coover compares to the early days of artificial insemination, and like this genetic counterpart, its impact is yet to be realized.

"This is a powerful technology," said Coover, who is also a veterinarian. "We are on the

threshold of a biotechnology revolution. In 30 years, you will not be able to recognize the beef industry. It will be totally different."

The use of cloning in animal agriculture is still in review by FDA. While the final decision on the use of cloning is not decided. Coover remains excited at the potential for its use in the future.

In addition to the keynote address and tour, seminars were held at different locations at Em Tran. Jena Melot of NRCS talked about the stream bank fencing project recently completed at Em Tran and other conservation programs available to beef producers to maintain an environmentally sound operation.

Paul Tauer of Heat Watch, a cattle heat detection program, talked about ways to improve reproductive efficiency with computer technology.

Cyagra staff also expanded Coover's topic with sessions on the use of improved methods to program cows for breeding and Em Tran's embryo flushing and sexing programs. They also had a seminar taking visitors step by step through the genetic preservation and cloning process.



Alejandro Cantarelli, CEO of Cyagra, Inc. stands with a pair of clone calves at the 2003 field day.