

Reading Fair Brings Out The Beef

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — First time proved the charm for Rachael Stafford, winning supreme champion dairy beef here last week at the Reading Fair.

Rachael, 10, is the daughter of Judy and Tony Stafford, Bernville. The Strausstown Elementary fifth-grader, in her first year of 4-H, selected the calf from the Hetrick-Dale Farm in Bernville.

Rachael noted that "he liked me more" than she did him, but as a calf, the steer had some champion qualities. She plans to show at this week's Kutztown Fair.

Reserve champion went to Stacey Manbeck, 13, daughter of Karen and Norm Manbeck, Womelsdorf. The dairy beef animal was purchased from the Hicks Farm in Sharlottesville.

Stacey, during her third year in dairy beef and six years in Berks County 4-H, won for the first time with "Anto." She plans to show at Kutztown Fair. Kristy Dietrich, 18, daughter of Jim and Donna Dietrich, Hamburg, won grand champion beef at the fair.

Kristy, who is a freshman at Penn State Berks Campus and is studying animal sciences, exhibited "Who," an April 2002 calf that is a crossbred Limousin/Angus/Chianina/Maine Anjou.



Cathy Levan holds Shelby Rarick's supreme champion heifer at the Reading Fair.

Kristy has exhibited a champion at the Reading Fair before. The Tulpehocken High School graduate plans to exhibit at Kutztown Fair, Oley, Allentown, Keystone International Livestock Expo, and Farm Show.

Kristy won champion fitter, reserve showman, and champion middleweight at the fair.

Kevin Fuls, Richland, show judge, noted the champion animal was "outstanding," he said. "It's thick and stout and is how a show steer should look."

Shelby Rarick won grand champion heifer and reserve market steer. Shelby, 11, daughter of Keni Anne, Fleetwood, is in the sixth grade at Fleetwood Middle School.

ter of Keni Anne, Fleetwood, is in the sixth grade at Fleetwood Middle School.

The champion lamb and goat winner at the fair plans to show at Kutztown, Allentown, Oley, Keystone, and Farm Show.

Following is a list of show placings:

READING FAIR DAIRY BEEF SHOW RESULTS

Light lightweights: 1. Kimberly Angstadt. 2. Kayla Naftzinger. 3. Calvin Naftzinger.

Medium lightweights: 1. Vanessa Manbeck. 2. Enc Hetrick. 3. Matt Hetrick.

Heavy lightweights: 1. Brittini Treichler. 2. Stacey Manbeck. 3. Brandon Younker.

Lightweight champion: Brittini Treichler
Reserve lightweight champion: Stacey Manbeck

Light middleweight: 1. Ian Hetrick. 2. Enc Younker. 3. Matt Hetrick.

Medium middleweight: 1. Stacey Manbeck. 2. Brett Treichler. 3. Jeffrey Angstadt.

Heavy middleweight: 1. Jeffrey Angstadt. 2. Bradley Younker. 3. Enc Hetrick.

Middleweight champion: Stacey Manbeck

Reserve middleweight champion: Ian Hetrick

Light heavyweight: 1. Lindsay Hetrick. 2. Lindsay Hetrick. 3. Brett Treichler.

Medium heavyweight: 1. Vanessa Manbeck. 2. Amy Stafford. 3. Brittini Treichler.

Heavy heavyweight: 1. Rachael Stafford. 2. Rachael Kirkhoff. 3. Rachael Kirkhoff.

Heavyweight champion: Rachael Stafford

Reserve heavyweight champion: Vanessa Manbeck.

GRAND CHAMPION
Rachael Stafford
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION
Stacey Manbeck



Rachael Stafford, right, won grand champion dairy beef at the Reading Fair. Reserve went to Stacey Manbeck, left.



Kristy Dietrich, right, won grand champion market steer late last week at the Reading Fair. At left is show judge Kevin Fuls.

All photos by
Andy Andrews, editor

U. S. Requests WTO Panel To Resolve EU's Position On Bio-Tech Products

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick and Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman recently announced that the United States is taking the next step in its World Trade Organization challenge to the European Union's (EU) illegal five-year moratorium on approving agricultural biotechnology products by asking the WTO for a dispute settlement panel.

The United States, along with Canada and Argentina, initiated the case by requesting formal WTO consultations in May. Canada and Argentina are likewise requesting WTO panels to consider the EU moratorium.

"Delegations from the United States, Canada and Argentina consulted in June with EU officials, but the EU indicated no willingness to comply with its WTO obligations by lifting the groundless moratorium on biotech products," said Zoellick.

"The EU's stance leaves us no choice but to proceed with the establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel," Zoellick said. "For five years, the EU has kept in place a ban on biotech approvals a ban which is unsupported even by the EU's own scientific studies. This trade barrier harms farmers and consumers around the world by denying them the benefits of productive, nutritious and environmentally friendly biotech products."

"We have been extremely patient for almost five years," said Veneman. "We have had exhaustive discussions with the Europeans and it now is time to let the dispute settlement process work."

President Bush, in his May 21, 2003, Coast Guard Academy Commencement Address, said that "By widening the use of new high-yield bio-crops and unleashing the power of markets, we can dramatically increase agricultural productivity and feed more people across the continent. Yet, our partners in Europe are impeding this effort. They have blocked all new bio-crops because of unfounded, unscientific fears. This has caused many African nations to avoid investing in biotechnologies, for fear their products will be shut out of European markets. European governments should join - not hinder - the great cause of ending hunger in Africa."

The first step in a WTO dispute, which the United States, Canada and Argentina undertook in May, is to request consultations.

Other countries who expressed support for the case by joining as third parties to the consultations included: Australia, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, New Zealand, and Peru.

In addition, El Salvador, Honduras and Uruguay also supported the U.S. position at the public announcement of the case and have indicated their intent to join as third parties.

Where, as in this case, the consultations do not resolve the dispute, the countries that requested consultations may seek the formation of a dispute settlement panel. Dispute settlement procedures, including appeal, typically take about 18 months.



**New Farmers,
New Generation**
Marion Bowlan
**Pennsylvania
Farm Link**

FARM TRANSITIONS NEED LEADERSHIP

Recently I met with a dairy farm family undergoing a farm transition. The farm was passed down through the mother's side of the family with three sons as possible heirs to the operation.

Although her marital relationship ended in divorce, the mother was able to successfully manage the business end of the farm and had accumulated adjoining land to the original farmstead, growing the acreage to about 700. At age 57, she said she was ready to begin the transition process of this 225-cow dairy operation to her son.

How did she get to this point? I believe that it's important to look at some of the essential decisions that were made along the way to arrive at this goal.

- Each son had the opportunity to work on the farm and to work for the operation or to make alternative career choices. No one was pressured to work on the farm. The two older sons selected other careers — one is a teacher and the other is a pilot.

- The youngest son expressed an interest in and commitment to the dairy. He decided to attend college and major in dairy business management, but came home every weekend throughout his college education to help with the milking.

- When the youngest son demonstrated his commitment to the dairy, he was encouraged to assume an active role in the business management decisions made on the farm. He actively participated in determining feed rations, herd management, and herd health and other farm business decisions.

- The mother and son are moving into a business partnership with each member contributing his/her share of the knowledge, assets, and experience.

What is also noteworthy is what didn't happen.

The other sons were advised of the decisions made about the farm, but their advice and consent in the farm transition process was not solicited. She said, "They weren't here helping with the crops or the cows. They were

off doing their own thing. That's OK. My youngest son was here every weekend. He didn't miss any. I love all my sons, but the youngest is the only one that's going to be involved in the decisions about transferring the farm."

Their plan is to transition the farm assets through a limited liability company. She will keep her other sons informed of their decisions, but not involve them in the details. Other family assets or heirlooms will be given to these sons.

Farm transition planning requires leadership from the senior generation. Without it, families face the danger of squabbling over issues totally separate from what is good for the farm business. Siblings can get entangled in unending battles over equality that can result in no one taking over the farm.

Because of the desire to avoid conflict, decision-making can be delayed with the end result being more conflict and less time and opportunity for interested family members to take over the farm. And the farm business decisions that need to be made to ensure profitability for both generations can be delayed or neglected in favor of more immediate family concerns.

To learn more about farm family business planning and transfer, contact Pennsylvania Farm Link at (717) 664-7077 or attend our upcoming workshops on value-added marketing on Sept. 13 or our "Passing on the Farm" workshops on Nov. 18 and 20, Dec. 16, or Jan. 20 and 27.

