

PA'S ANNUAL BEEF EXPO LIVELY DESPITE THE COLD WEATHER

by Glenn Eberly and Elizabeth Ackerman

(State College, PA) This year's 22nd Annual Pennsylvania Beef Expo, held March 24th through 27th, was an unqualified success. Thursday featured educational programs highlighting Jana Malot's presentation, Grazing Improvements and Financial Program Availability, followed by a discussion covering backgrounding feeder cattle in Pennsylvania. Running concurrently was a two part initial and recertification Beef Quality Assurance Training Seminar. In excess of 70 people became BQA certified.

Thursday evening, the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association's Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet was held at Celebration Hall in State College. The evening's events and announcements are detailed elsewhere in PCA news. The Expo conducted a successful auction at the banquet to raise money for the Lowell Wilson Scholarship with Mary Grimes offering to match the amount raised that evening.

Friday morning, the spotlight turned to the Pennsylvania Performance Tested Bull Sale and an impressive trade show at the Samuel E. Hayes Livestock Evaluation Center. There was a capacity crowd with standing room only. There was great demand for the 83 bulls available. The display areas were full with a group of 40 commercial and service organization exhibitors offering a diverse collection of information and products to the attendees. The Pennsylvania Simmental Association conducted their annual female sale following the bull sale and reported it to be very successful. As events wound down here, the focus shifted to the junior shows, programs and contests that were held at the Snider Agricultural Arena on the campus of Penn State University on Friday evening into Saturday and Sunday.

The weather may have been cold in State College at the end of March, but the competition was hot at the Pennsylvania Beef Expo. This year's expo once again provided Pennsylvania Junior Cattlemen's Association (PJCA) members with the opportunity to test their beef industry knowledge as they competed in the annual Expo Quiz Bowl Challenge and Skillathon. The Quiz Bowl was held Fri-

day night beginning with the preliminaries. Teams from across the region competed, answering questions on topics such as nutrition, genetics and reproduction. Competition continued with the Quiz Bowl Finals. This year's Senior Quiz Bowl champions was the York County Team.

PJCA members lined up Saturday morning to compete in this year's Beef Skillathon. Coordinated by the Penn State Block and Bridle Club, the Skillathon was an excellent opportunity for young beef enthusiasts to test their industry knowledge. For two hours, PJCA members raced against the clock to complete different mini-learning stations, including feed ID and food safety. After all the questions had been answered and the points tallied, the top individuals and teams were announced. Top individual in the senior division was Morgan Livingston from Seven Valleys, PA. The highest ranking senior team was Team Bucks Camp made up of Alex Hendricks, Devin Byers and Natasha Zeigler. In the intermediate division, top individual honors went to Garrett Livingston from Seven Valleys, PA. The top intermediate team was Berks Beef, consisting of Amber Dietrich, Jessica Spatz and Tori Dietrich. Samantha Riggs was named as the top individual in the junior division helping her junior teammates, Cameron Tuckey and Michael Riggs of Bucks Camp #2 secure a first place finish.

The 22nd Annual PA Beef Expo Junior Steer and Heifer Show, at which PJCA members exhibited 171 animals, was judged by Katherine Meadows of Buchanan, VA. The Junior Heifer Show began Saturday, March 26, at 1 p.m. with 80 purebred and crossbred heifers. Seven breeds competed for Overall Grand Champion Heifer. The Champion Crossbred Heifer, owned by Evan Vonada of Mill Hall, PA, was named overall Grand Champion Heifer. Reserve Champion Overall Heifer was exhibited by Whitney Betts of McClure, PA, with her Reserve Champion Crossbred Heifer.

The following is a list of each Breed Champion and Reserve Breed Champion: **Angus** – Champion Matt Mitchell,

Reinholds, PA. Reserve Champion Matt Mitchell, Reinholds, PA. **Hereford** – Champion Tiffany Bowman, Boonsboro, MD. Reserve Champion Kelsey Diehl, Fairfield, PA. **Maine Influence** – Champion Terrill John Boyd, Gerrardstown, WV. Reserve Champion Ella Klink, Hartstown, PA. **Shorthorn** – Champion Makayla Stone, Moscow, PA. Reserve Champion Maria Angelo, Venango, PA. **Simmental** – Champion Caitlin Wolfgang, Middletown, PA. Reserve Champion Emily Benner, Mifflintown, PA. **All Other Breeds** – Champion McCall Griffith, Boonsboro, MD. Reserve Champion Blake Herman, Beavertown, PA. **Crossbred** – Champion Evan Vonada of Mill Hall, PA. Reserve Champion Whitney Betts of McClure, PA.

The showmanship competition, judged by J.D. Hausner, kicked-off Sunday morning's activities with Mandy Clark capturing Senior Champion Showman honors, followed by Megan Keller, who won the Reserve Senior Showman honors. In the Intermediate division, Ella Klink won Intermediate Champion Showman, and Reserve Champion Intermediate Showman went to Brittany Truax. Makayla Stone was chosen as Junior Champion Showman.

The Junior Steer Show saw 91 steers competing for Grand Champion Steer. When the dust settled, the banner went to Shannon Braman, Bedford, PA, with her champion heavyweight steer. Tyler Bowman, Accident, MD exhibited the Reserve Overall Champion Steer.

The following are a list of the division champion and reserve champion steers: Champion Lightweight Steer – Brittany Truax, Hustontown, PA. Reserve Champion Lightweight Steer – Evan Vonada, Mill Hall, PA. Champion Middleweight Steer – Clayton Garlock, McConnellsburg, PA. Reserve Champion Middleweight Steer – Ashley Rodeheaver, Friendsville, MD. Champion Heavyweight Steer – Shannon Braman, Bedford, PA. Reserve Champion Heavyweight Steer – Tyler Bowman, Accident, MD.

Following this extensive event, the PA Beef Expo would like to give a special thank you to all who gave of their time, energy, and resources to make the weekend a great success.