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A great place to have a cow

Solanco Fair kicks off with bovine royalty, parade

» By Ryan Robinson
» Lancaster New Era

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» **LANCASTER COUNTY, PA** - Wentworth Farm Laro Valencia enjoys the Southern Lancaster County Community Fair.

» But the red- and white-spotted Ayrshire cow thinks the 57th annual event that kicked off Wednesday is a little out of whack.

More people come to watch the parade and eat funnel cakes and milkshakes than to check out the main attraction — her.

After all, she's bovine royalty: the daughter of Des Chamois Pat Laro and Wentworth Farm Sweet Vidalia 90 2E. The numbers behind her mom's name means she was rated 90/100 two straight years, a lofty accomplishment.

But are Donald and Sandra Hart of Lancaster interested in her? No. They are salivating over the canned fruits and vegetables a barn away from Valencia.

The Harts try to visit most of the fairs in the county every year, mainly to see the best competitive entries.

Hmmph, Valencia snorts.

The registered Ayrshire purebred garnered blue and red ribbons in the fair's dairy contest, despite being eight months pregnant and losing her lean figure.

» The 3-year-old — a junior champion heifer at the 2004 Goshen Fair in Chester County — would have stomped off with two blue ribbons if it wasn't for that 11-year-old hussy with the larger udder.

In a nearby field, Freeman Taylor, 77, of Nottingham, was preparing his 1930 Ford Model A Coupe for the parade.

"All original except for the seats," Taylor noted.

» And Katie Hall, 13, New Providence, and McKenzie Linden, 13, and Andrew Linden, 7, both of Lancaster, were busy manning The Pearl.

» The three Pirates of the Caribbean sported eye patches, painted facial hair, bandannas and swords. Their sailboat float included a sail, steering wheel, smoking cannons (thanks to dry ice), a plank, skeleton, vultures and even a parrot.

» "We're grabbing prisoners along the parade route, but don't tell

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anyone," Hall whispers.

Wentworth Farm Laro Valencia doesn't feel like a prisoner, despite the rope harness around her neck.

Rob and Bonnie Wentworth of River Road, Quarryville, and their twin 16-year-old children, Hannah and Ethan, provide dry straw for Valencia's bed. Also, a special treat for the fair: beet pulp shreds with molasses. Mmmm.

Of the dairy family's eight heifers and six cows at the fair, Valencia is on the end, the most visible spot. She doesn't think that was an accident.

Only problem is she's right next to Daisy, who could use a lesson in manners from Valencia, according to Ethan. Daisy almost kicked the teen when he tried to clip her.

Valencia takes all the pampering in stride. Sometimes, she thinks she has more in common with the majestic Percheron draft horses, like the ones pulling carriages in the nearby parade.

The working mother scoffs at the numerous animals who make a fool out of themselves for attention.

Take Dolly, one of the horses in the parade group, the Drumore Outlaws. Dolly's hooves were painted pink and she donned a light green bikini.

No, Valencia commands attention like Solanco High School drum major Heather Eisenberger.

The 16-year-old junior, dressed to the hilt, led the band with style.

Style also resided in one of the commercial tents.

Clint Greer of Peach Bottom is pitching his Little Pines Country Log Homes from an impressive booth made with 18 logs and three 22-inch-wide slabs of white pine.

But Valencia prefers the dairy barn, where the heart of Lancaster County's agriculture industry resides. Cows like Valencia do their part in making Pennsylvania the fourth largest dairy producer.

Many visitors skip it.

But just when Valencia is about to get bitter, Dylan Carpenter walks up to her.

The 4-year-old New Providence boy went straight to the cows when he got to the fair and chose Valencia as the one cow to approach and pet.

"He loves cows," his mother says.

Now there's a boy with a head on his shoulders, Valencia thinks.

The fair continues through Friday at the fairgrounds off Route 472 in Quarryville.

Today, the fair features a Holstein steer feeder calf show at 5 p.m., tractor pulling at 6 p.m., beef judging and a baby parade at 7 p.m., and tug of war at 7:30 p.m.

Friday features tractor driving and milking contests, youth awards, livestock sale, pedal tractor pull and iron man contest.

Oh, and don't forget to say hello to Wentworth Farm Laro



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Valencia.

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Wednesday's parade results:

Marching Band: 1. Avon Grove High School 2. Octorara High School 3. Perryville High School

FFA: 1. Solanco FFA

4-H: 1. Rough Riders 2. Pigmy Goat Pride

Scouting: 1. Boy Scout Troop 101 2. Girl Scout Bart Cluster 3. Cub Scout Pack 91

Commercial: 1. Quarryville Presbyterian Retirement Community 2. Andrea's Academy of Ballet 3. Heaven Bound Child Care

Non-Commercial: 1. Susquehanna Equestrian 2. Tucquan Lions Club 3. Soroptimist International of Solanco

Church-Sponsored: 1. Union Presbyterian 2. Middle Octorara Youth 3. Wrightsville Baptist

Fire Co./Ambulance: 1. Wakefield Ambulance 2. Union Fire Co. No 1 3. Penn Hills Wildland Crew

Equestrian: 1. Valley Lea Riding Club 2. Peach Bottom Stables 3. Drumore Outlaws

Other results:

The pygmy goat show was new to this year's events. Melissa Fellenbaum showed the grand champion doe and Chad Muckel had the grand champion dam and daughter. Jennifer Esbenshade had the reserve champion doe and reserve champion dam and daughter with Elizabeth Cummings. In the wether class, Tyler Muckel won the grand champion title and Chad Muckel received the reserve champion title.

Other pygmy goat results were:

Doe Kids (zero to one year old): 1. Melissa Fellenbaum 2. Jennifer Esbenshade 3. Chad Muckel

Doe Yearlings (one to two years old): 1. Chad Muckel 2. Jennifer Esbenshade.

Doe (two to three year olds): 1. Jennifer Esbenshade 2. Grant Fellenbaum 3. Victoria Fellenbaum

Doe (aged): 1. Melissa Fellenbaum 2. Jennifer Esbenshade 3. Elizabeth Cummings.

Senior Showmanship: 1. Jennifer Esbenshade 2. Elizabeth

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Cummings 3. Melissa Fellenbaum

Junior Showmanship: 1. Victoria Fellenbaum

Showmanship (10- to 12-year-olds): 1. Chad Muckel 2. Sarah Esbenshade 3. Grant Fellenbaum

In the Brown Swiss category, Kyle Miller showed the grand champion and senior champion and Josh Miller took the reserve grand champion and reserve senior champion titles. Jennifer Aument took the junior champion and the reserve junior champion titles.

Other Brown Swiss Open Class results were:

Winter Calf: 1. Josh Miller

Fall Calf: 1. Hannah Wentworth

Summer Yearling: 1. Jennifer Aument 2. Kyle Miller

Spring Yearling: 1. Kyle Miller

Winter Yearling: 1. Jennifer Aument 2. Josh Miller 3. Kelsey Knight

Fall Yearling: 1. Josh Miller 2. Kelsey Knight

Senior Two Year Olds: 1. Josh Miller

Three Year Olds: 1. Matt Aument

Four Year Olds: 1. Josh Miller

Aged Cows: 1. Kyle Miller

Best Udder: 1. Matt Aument.

Get of Sire: 1. Josh Miller, Kyle Miller and Kelsey Knight

Best Three Females: 1. Kyle Miller 2. Josh Miller 3. Kelsey Knight

Dairy Herd: 1. Kyle Miller

Produce of Dam: 1. Josh Miller 2. Kelsey Knight

Dam and Daughter: 1. Kyle Miller 2. Matt Aument

Showmanship (8- to 10-year-olds): 1. Amanda Knight 2. Kelsey Knight 3. Noah Wentworth

Showmanship (11- to 14-year-olds): 1. Jennifer Aument 2. Carlyn Crowl 3. Matt Aument

Showmanship (15 and older): 1. Hannah Wentworth 2. Ethan Wentworth 3. Josh Miller

In the Ayrshire category, Rebecca Nolan had the grand champion, senior champion and junior division champion. Hannah Wentworth had the reserve grand champion, the reserve senior champion and the reserve junior division

champion. Rebecca Nolan took the junior championship and James Findley had the reserve junior champion.

Other Ayrshire Open, FFA and 4-H Class results were:

Spring Calf: 1. Noah Wentworth 2. Ethan Wentworth

Fall Calf: 1. Hannah Wentworth 2. Rebecca Nolan

Summer Yearling: 1. James Findley

Spring Yearling: 1. Ken Findley 2. Hannah Wentworth 3. Rebecca Nolan

Spring Yearling FFA & 4-H: 1. Hannah Wentworth 2. Rebecca Nolan 3. Ethan Wentworth

Winter Yearling: 1 and 2. Rebecca Nolan 3. Ken Findley

Winter Yearling FFA & 4-H - 1 and 2. Rebecca Nolan

Dry Cows: 1. Ken Findley 2. Ethan Wentworth

Dry Cows FFA & 4-H: 1. Ethan Wentworth

Junior Two Year Olds: 1 and Best Udder. Ethan Wentworth 2. James Findley

Junior Two Year Olds FFA & 4-H: 1. James Findley

Senior Two Year Olds: 1. Hannah Wentworth 2 and Best Udder. Lane Findley 3. Rebecca Nolan

Three Year Olds: 1 and Best Udder. Ken Findley 2. Hannah Wentworth

Three Year Olds FFA & 4-H: 1. Hannah Wentworth

Four Year Olds: 1. Ethan Wentworth

Aged Cows: 1 and Best Udder. Rebecca Nolan 2. Ken Findley 3. Rebecca Nolan

Aged Cows FFA & 4-H: 1 and 2. Rebecca Nolan

Get of Sire: 1. Rebecca Nolan

Best Three Females: 1. Rebecca Nolan 2. Locust Valley Farm 3. Hannah Wentworth

Dairy Herd: 1. Rebecca Nolan 2. Ethan Wentworth 3. Locust Valley Farm

Dam and Daughter: 1. Locust Valley Farm 2. Hannah Wentworth 3. Ethan Wentworth

In the Jersey category, Michael Bollinger had the grand champion and senior champion. Ethan Wentworth had the reserve grand champion, reserve senior champion and reserve junior division champion. Wanda Aument earned the junior champion and reserve junior division champion titles. Rob and Bonnie Wentworth showed the reserve

junior champion.

Other Jersey Open, FFA and 4-H Class results were:

Spring Calf: 1. Oliver Wentworth 2. Michael Bollinger

Spring Calf FFA & 4-H: 2. Oliver Wentworth

Winter Calf: 1. Rob and Bonnie Wentworth 2. Michael Bollinger

Spring Yearling: 1. Amanda Aument

Two Year Olds: 1. Ethan Wentworth

Three Year Olds: 1. Michael Bollinger

Four Year Olds: 1. Michael Bollinger

Best Three Females: 1. Wentworth Farm

Produce of Dam: 1. Michael Bollinger.

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