



FRYEBURG YOUTH SHOW

Written by Jack Wadsworth

There will be a lot of excitement around the Fryeburg Fairgrounds starting this Thursday, April 18 thru Sunday, April 21st as trucks hauling cattle trailers congregate from around the Northeast for the 33rd annual Fryeburg Youth Show. Approximately 135 participants from 6 states and Quebec will show over 250 animals over the course of the four-day show. Children and young adults, from 5 to 21 years of age, learn how to clip and fit (get their animal ready to show) thru workshops and clinics provided by the Youth Show.

A few highlights of upcoming shows:

1. Showmanship (competition of how well the person displays the animal and watches the judge for instruction).
2. Breed classes to determine Champion heifer of each breed of beef animal at the show.
3. Steer show to determine the best steer's conformation and amount of finish the animal has on them.

Diane Gushee has been the leader and driving force behind the Fryeburg Youth Show since its inception in 1991. Diane spends all year finding donations, sponsors, and items for auction. Each participant comes away with a T-shirt and items that they will use showing their animals as well as prize money for the top finishers in each show.

A banquet is held Friday night. Last year 325 people attended the banquet of prime rib, chicken, fish, and pork with all kinds of salads, drinks and desserts.

The Fryeburg Youth Show is the first animal show of the season in Maine. This is the first opportunity for youth to bring their animals to a show and learn through workshops and clinics on how to prepare their animal for show and actually show their animal.

Following are some interviews conducted of young adults at last year's 2023 Youth Show:



2023 - GRETCHEN M. HARDING, age 16, Young Farmer Beef Club, Maine

How many years have you participated in the Fryeburg Youth Show? 9-10 years

What breed do you show? Maine Anjos

How many animals did you bring to the show? Three.

What do you like most about raising livestock? Teaching other younger members all about what I do. I also like fitting and clipping my cattle and others' cattle.

What do you like about showing animals? Clipping, fitting and spending time with my animals and friends.

What do you least enjoy about showing animals? The competition, the rush of winning instead of having fun is more intense as I am now older.

What did you learn this year at the Youth Show? Time management, show to relax and just have fun.



2023 - ELIZABETH GRAUSTEIN, age 17, Club Affiliation-Curly Tails, ME/NH

How many years have you participated in the Fryeburg Youth Show?

What breed do you show? Hereford

How many animals did you bring to the show? One steer

What do you like most about raising livestock? Being around the animals and working with the kids.

What do you like about showing animals? I like helping all the kids and showing off all the work I put in.

What do you least enjoy about showing animals? The stress of making everything perfect.

What did you learn this year at the Youth Show? I learned more about fitting my steer.

2023 - MACALIE FORREST, age 17, Rhode Island

How many years have you participated in the Fryeburg Youth Show? 16

What breed do you show? Hereford

How many animals did you bring to the show? 5

What do you like most about raising livestock? I enjoy everything that it brings into my life. Through this industry I have made so many friendships that will last a lifetime. I love the breed I show and just love being involved in the ag industry.

What do you like about showing animals? The thrill it brings to my life. The bonds you create with your animals. I love being in the ring and knowing that I'm finally in my element.

What do you least enjoy about showing animals? The politics in cattle. There's politics in everything and it's just sad that it's also involved in the livestock industry.

What did you learn this year at the Youth Show? To just have fun.

2023 - JAMES HICKS age 21, New York

How many years have you participated in the Fryeburg Youth Show? 5

What breed do you show? Simmental

How many animals did you bring to the show? 1

What do you like most about raising livestock? Working with the animals and watching them grow.

What do you like about showing animals? Being able to compete with a project I've been putting a lot of work into. Also being able to see old friends and make new ones.

What do you least enjoy about showing animals? The cost - haha.

What did you learn this year at the Youth Show? I got to see old friends.

2023 - KAYLAN "KP" FORREST, age 13, Club
Affiliation: Curly Tails, Fryeburg, ME

How many years have you participated in the
Fryeburg Youth Show? 6

What breed do you show? Black Angus

How many animals did you bring to the show? 1

What do you like most about raising livestock?
The challenge of taking care of them starting at
one point, making a plan and goals. Succeeding
and maybe not - then adjust.

What do you like about showing animals? It's fun
to challenge myself.

What do you least enjoy about showing animals?
Early morning washes in the dark.

What did you learn this year at the Youth Show? Different feeding formulas and approaches. My
steer has been having a hard time gaining weight. Thank you to the Mock and Pride families for your
advice.

