



Suburban and rural youths got together at Springfield Oaks County Park.

4-H fair entices suburban youth to the country

By SUSAN L. SILK

OAKLAND COUNTY-A love of horses has brought suburban and rural youngsters together in Oakland County.

Springfield-Oaks County Park, near Davisburg in northwestern Springfield Township—with its enclosed coliseum, rolling green hills and Western Post-dock—was the setting for the 4-H Fair July 31-Aug. 3.

Of course, there were the traditional vegetable-raising contests, sewing and knitting displays. But also during the week, 4-H members from Southfield to Orionville participated in various horsemanship events.

Beyond tents where pigs, goats and sheep were displayed, the riders assembled to enter the dirt staging

area. The announcer instructed each age class when to walk, trot or gallop their steeds.

DURING THE first of the week, English-style riders brought their horses to the park. Later events featured Western-saddled mounts.

All week long, youngsters from Bloomfield Township, West Bloomfield, Southfield, Troy, Rochester, Orchard Lake and Birmingham went through their paces alongside riders from Davisburg, Oxford, Holly, rural Oakland County.

Carolyn Bradley, 11, of 3681 Longcrest, Southfield, wearing yellow jodhpurs and a black velvet jacket and hat, was far more formally English than her Western saddled coriders. Carolyn has been in 4-H about three

years. Her appearance at the Springfield Oaks show Friday was a first, she said.

"I WAS NERVOUS at first, but now I'm just excited," said Carolyn shortly after earning a fifth place in the "pleasure" event.

Carolyn's horse, rust-colored "Kasara," did all the work to earn that pleasure event award. For the horsemanship event in which Carolyn was scheduled to appear on Friday, the rider would be tested on her skills.

Jeff Weatherly, 16, of Farmington, riding an Appaloosa named "Watsoose," already had captured a championship blue-ribbon in "fitting and showing" and a second place in his age group's "pleasure" competition with one more day to go.



5-year-old Patricia Pickering greets a Springfield Township farm animal.

Photographed by Art Emanuel

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