

It's been many years since I've looked at any of the awards or beauty pageant programs that now abound on TV and the internet. I've never had an interest in that sort of thing.

But, I started thinking about what a panel of judges would do if they were confronted with the necessity of rating the livestock and other animals on this farm on all kinds of qualities. This is what I came up with:

The most—

Dignified—Effie, the 19 year old cow

Clumsy—Lily, the Guernsey milk cow

Photogenic—Topsy, the Haflinger/Morgan filly

Seductive—Little, the hay barn cat

Well Built—Ghost, the Clun Forest ram

Arrogant—the Plymouth Rock rooster

Temperamental—Black Kitty, the neighborhood tom

Loyal—Blue, the Border Collie

Mean—Lily

Cute—Joe, the little orange kitten

Hungry—Kate, the fat Border Collie

Strong—Alvik, the Fjord gelding

Obedient—Halvan, the other milk cow

Gossipy—the little red hens

Well-behaved—Effalina, the yearling heifer

The reader might note that Lily won in two categories. She is the most clumsy and also the meanest. It is wise to stay away from those feet that can strike out straight back. To milk her, it is necessary to slip hobbles around her back legs first. And before that, the cautious milker will give her a little grain to divert her attention. Still, I suppose that there is some fame attached to being a double winner, no matter how dubious and meaningless the contest is. Many human winners, all decked out in their ideas of finery for the cameras, might take note and wonder what it all really means.