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ALLENTOWN - After a grueling 13 hours of judging breeding sheep at the Allentown Fair last week, judge Claire Engel, Penn State Extension sheep specialist, selected the champion Cheviot ram owned by Erdenheim Farm of Lafayette Hill, Montgomery County for the coveted Best Ram award.

Erdenheim Farm's champion Cheviot ram bested six other breed champions, including their own champion Dorset ram. A total of 208 breeding sheep and 56 market lambs were shown.

The champion Hampshire ram

was exhibited by Joshua Grim, Breinigsville, while David Schultz, Nazareth, had the champion Shropshire ram Schultz also exhibited the champion Dorset

Champion Southdown ram went to the entry of the Lehigh County Vo-Ag School, Schnecksville. They also had the champion Southdown

In the Suffolk competition, champion ram went to the entry of Stephen Pierson, Norristown.

Ramboullets were exhibited for the first-time at the Allentown Fair Open Breeding Sheep Show this year. Both the champion ram and ewe honors went to ovines exhibited by Grant A. Lazarus, Germansville.

Other ewe championships went to entries of: Renne Harris, Stillwater, champion Cheviot; Donna Strawbridge, Whitehall, champion Hampshire; W. E. Yoder, Kutzton champion

Shropshire; Connie S. Ungler, Northampton, champion Suffolk.

Elaine Heffner, Fleetwood, Berks County, exhibited the champion market lamb, while fellow Berks Countian Gwendolyn Perry, Hamburg, took the reserve champion market lamb honors. The two followed this order in the Pair of Market Lambs competition, with Elaine showing the champs and Gwendolyn showing the reserve champs.

Champion 4-H fitter at this year's show was Joshua Grim, Breinegsville, and champion 4-H showman was Andy Wagner, Bethlehem.—AM

USDA task force issues advice for bankrupt elevators

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A U.S. Department of Agriculture task force has recommended an "early warning system" to detect grain elevators that may be developing financial problems, and has recommended measures to safeguard the interests of tarmers and the government in potential elevator bankruptcies.

The task torce report calls for a joint federal-state study group to establish minimum net worth standards tor commercial elevators, improved audit procedures and increased coordination of government grain elevator licensing requirements.

The report has been submitted to an executive committee headed by Ray Lett, executive assistant to Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block. The executive committee now will assess the recommendations and forward them to

Lett said the recommendations-published in a 60page report-will serve as the starting point for further action, both administrative and legislative, in dealing with the bankruptcy problems.

"It is essential to the orderly marketing of agricultural products for tarmers to have a sound grain warehouse system they can depend on," said Lett.

"To have such a system, we suggest requiring warehousemen to file an annual certified financial statement prepared by an independent certified public accountant. This statement should serve both farmers, financial institutions and USDA of the financial soundness of the elevator.

"The possibility of grain elevator bankruptcies continues to create uncertainty for U.S. farmers and impedes the administration's push toward greater reliancé on open, free markets to provide farmers' incomes," he

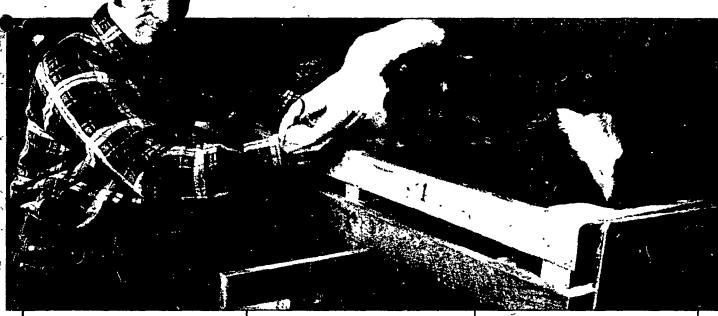
"Our recommendations focus on ways to detect early those grain elevators with possible financial problems and to alert farmers when USDA action is initiated. Our recommendations deal less with what could be done after an elevator does go bankrupt," Lett and.

Individual copies of the report re available through the ublications section, information wisión, room 24-W, USDA/ASCS, O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C., 013. Or call 202/447-4122.



Andy Wagner, left, received the champion sheep showman award at last week's Allentown Fair while Joshua Grim was named champion fitter.

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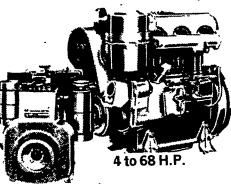


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