

Martin ewe lamb emerges as Ephrata Fair Champ

BY SHEILA MILLER

EPHRATA — Seventeen-year-old Barry Martin of R1 East Earl, Lancaster County, crouched confidently next to his Suffolk ewe lamb, waiting for Judge Terry Coon's selection of first-place lamb in the third class of Suffolk-sired market lambs during last Wednesday evening's Ephrata Fair.

After emerging as the blue-ribbon winner despite tough competition against seven class entries, Martin had only just enough time to catch his breath before he and his lamb were pitted against the other two-first place Suffolk lambs — one a stablemate owned by Barry, the other belonging to Jeff Martin of R1 Ephrata. Still Barry held the lamb that had captured the judge's attention, and after a few moments deliberation, Coon, a graduate student at Penn State, gave Barry the nod which indicated his lamb was champion Suffolk.

As Martin and his lamb waited, the remaining first-place entries representing five other sheep breeds lined up in the straw bale-encircled show ring to see who would be grand champion of this year's Ephrata Fair Lamb Show.

After handling and critically observing more than 53 lambs, Judge Coon awarded the top honors to Martin's "powerful" lamb. She explained her selection reflected her choice of a lamb that was "progressive" and would "make more money" for any producer.

"This is the type of lamb people should be striving to raise," said Coon, while praising the lamb's "meatiness and thickness."

Martin, the son of John A. and

Marilyn Martin, is a junior at Garden Spot High School where he is a member of the FFA and a Star Chapter Farmer. Quarter horses and sheep are the principal livestock raised on the family's 28-acre farm.

The family's sheep flock numbers roughly 50 head, with 30 breeding ewes. Martin explained he began raising sheep six years ago after getting interested through school work. About 75 percent of the flock is purebred Suffolk.

This is not the first time Martin has felt the intense scrutiny of a sheep judge in the ring, having won reserve champion honors twice at the Elizabethtown Fair along with grand champion showman. But this is the first time in his six-year history of Ephrata competition that he has exhibited the grand champion lamb, a happy Martin reflected, adding quietly that his older sister, Deb, had won top honors here three years ago.

Martin also exhibited the Ephrata Fair's champion carcass lamb on foot and rail, and Deb showed the reserve champion carcass lamb on foot. Jason Garman of R1 Ephrata exhibited the reserve champion carcass lamb on the rail.

A newcomer to the show ring and sheep production, fifteen-year-old John Spangler and his parents, Richard and Annabelle Spangler of Lititz were elated when Judge Coon went to his Suffolk x Hampshire ewe lamb for Reserve Grand Champion honors. Spangler's lamb followed Martin's to the championship circle, placing second to the grand champion Suffolk lamb in class, standing as reserve

champion Suffolk, and finally reserve grand overall.

Judge Coon praised both lambs' uniform finishes, stating emphatically that she "would put either one of them on my plate."

This is the first experience Spangler, a sophomore and FFA member at Warwick High School, has had in raising and showing sheep. He purchased two ewe lambs, including his reserve grand champ, from McDonald's Farm of R2 Palmyra.

Neither of John's parents had raised sheep before this year and both admitted it would be hard to sell them since the lambs had become a family focal point. John and his parents worked together with vocational agriculture teacher Sonia Shaner in learning the basics of sheep production — and everyone got involved in the project.

A beamingly proud Shaner congratulated young Spangler on his accomplishment. "It's thrilling to me," she said enthusiastically, pointing out that she was the only teacher who had worked with John on this project.

In the fitting and showmanship competition, Lynn Crills, 16, of R2 Ephrata was awarded the champion fitter honors. Lynn is a junior at Ephrata High School and serves as chaplain for the Cloister FFA chapter. This was Lynn's first lamb project and he said he plans to "take another lamb next year" and ply his hand at the sheep shears again.

Fourteen-year-old Kent Halsey of Bowmansville demonstrated his showmanship skills and captured champion showman honors in a contest that pitted the young sheep producer against his older cousin, Brian Hurst and beginner showman Jeff Martin.

Kent, who is a ninth grade FFA member at Garden Spot, said this is his third year "working with lambs," having taken them as his first ag project during sixth grade. Now, raising Corriedale sheep has become somewhat of a hobby for Kent who explains he kept one of his original ewe lambs for breeding stock. "I was going to butcher her but I got too attached," he confessed with a grin.

Kent is the son of Charles and Muriel Halsey.

The champion pen of market lambs was exhibited by eighteen-year-old Steve Moyer, a graduate of Ephrata High School and a member of the Cloister FFA. His winning entries, a three-way cross between a Suffolk ram and a Dorset x Rambouillet ewe, were purchased from Dutch Valley Farms, Manheim.

Class results follow:

CARCASS DIVISION

On-foot
1 Barry Martin, R1 East Earl, champion, 2 Deb Martin, R1 East Earl, reserve champion, 3 Jeff Martin, R1 East Earl, 4 Doug Martin, R1 East Earl, 5 Jason Garman, R1 Ephrata

On-rail
1 Barry Martin, champion, 2 Jason Garman, reserve champion, 3 Jeff Martin, 4 Clifford Horning, R1 Denver, 5 Deb Martin

MARKET LAMB

Cheviot
1 Doug Martin

Dorset
1 Brian Gladfelter, R1 Stevens, 2 3 Phil Eby, R1 Ephrata

Corriedale
1 2 Brian Hurst, Bowmansville, 3 5 Kent Halsey, Bowmansville, 4 Doug Hurst, Bowmanville

Southdown
1 John Spangler, Lititz

Hampshire
1 4 Kevin Horst, R2 Ephrata, 2 Mike Garman, R1 Ephrata, 3 Shawn Garman, R1 Ephrata

Suffolk A
1 Jeff Martin, 2 Lynn Crills, R2 Ephrata, 3 Jodi Carman, R1 Narvon, 4 Linda Ehrgood, Lititz, 5 Steve Moyer, R1 Rheinholds

Suffolk B
1 Barry Martin, 2 Carolyn Witmer, R2 East Earl, 3 Jeff Martin, 4 Steve Moyer, 5 Lynn Crills

Suffolk C
1 Barry Martin, grand champion, 2 John Spangler, reserve grand champion, 3 Carolyn Witmer, 4 5 Jeff Martin

PEN OF LAMBS

Corriedale
1 Brian Hurst

Hampshire
1 Kevin Horst

Suffolk
1 Steve Moyer, champion, 2 Jeff Martin, 3 Linda Good, 4 Lynn Crills



Barry Martin, 17, of R1 East Earl, exhibited his purebred Suffolk ewe lamb to the grand champion honors of last week's Ephrata Market Lamb Show. Barry is a member of the Garden Spot FFA. Posing with the lamb and Barry is judge Terry Coon from Penn State.



Fifteen-year-old John Spangler of Lititz showed his Suffolk crossbred to the reserve grand champion honors. This was Spangler's first year in raising and showing sheep.

- | | | |
|----------------|--|---|
| Other | 1 Carolyn Witmer, reserve champion | 2 Barry Martin, 3 Kevin Martin, 4 Jeff Martin |
| SHOWMANSHIP | 1 Jeff Martin | 2 Lynn Crills |
| Beginner | 1 Lynn Crills, champion | 2 Linda Ehrgood |
| 2nd & 3rd | 3 Jeff Martin, 4 John Spangler, 5 Phil Eby | |
| Advanced | 1 Carolyn Witmer, 2 Kent Halsey | 3 Jeff Martin, 4 Galen Martin, 5 Dave Spoo |
| 1 Barry Martin | 2 Deb Martin | 3 Brian Hurst |

At Ephrata Fair

Liz Chapman wins 3rd hog title

EPHRATA — Liz Chapman's successful 4-H career, now drawing near an end, can boast at least three hog show grand championships, with the promise that she'll be trying next week to add yet a fourth trophy where it all started four years ago.

The third grand championship came at last week's Ephrata Fair where her 230-pound, three-way cross caught the eye of judge Larry Arnold when it first came into the ring and must have remained in the back of his mind through the presentation of the show's top trophy.

Seventeen-year-old Liz started her trio of grand championships four years ago at her hometown Manheim Farm Show.

Sandwiched between that initial top finish and her latest grand

championship was her 4-H Roundup win last year, when younger sister, Chris, took the reserve grand championship.

And on Monday, it's back to the Manheim Farm Show, where she'll once again assume the favorite's role and seek her fourth top win.

Liz also had a mediumweight in the competition that finished second in its class.

"The heavyweight was the better hog," she said.

"It was heavier-muscled and a broader pig."

It addition to depth of frame and obviously lots of red meat on the hoof, the winning Landrace-Yorkshire-Duroc cross that came out of the Dutch Valley Farms stock was also a tall animal that

(Turn to Page B19)



First-year competitor Lynn Crill, 16, of R2 Ephrata was selected as champion fitter while fourteen-year-old Kent Halsey was named champion showman.



Steve Moyer or R1 Reinholds showed the champion pen of market lambs. Helping him hold the winning lambs were sister Rebecca Moyer, left, and friend Donna Martin.