"Unexpected" wins surprise

Lancaster's Tim and Sarah Fleener



Sarah Fleener, Lancaster, poses with the grand champion Hampshire ram at Farm Show. The winning ram, owned by Sarah and husband Tim, was the first-place ram lamb. Said Sarah, "We didn't expect him to win."



Tim Fleener exhibited the champion Hampshire ewe while wife Sara watched anxiously from the sidelines. The Lancaster couples' entry was described by Judge Leroy Boyd as showing the most "size, scale and structural correctness" of the ring-full of Hampshire ewes.

FARM SHOW — It was a banner day on Sunday for a young Lancaster County couple, Tim and Sarah Fleener and their registered Hampshire sheep at this year's Farm Show. In one of the most competitive divisions of breeding sheep shows, Tim and Sarah's outstanding entries tied up the grand championships in both the Hampshire ewe and ram classes.

Sarah, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Brubaker, Lancaster, won the first trophy for their Hampshire entries as she led their spring ram lamb to the top of his class and on to the grand championship.

"We weren't expecting to win," exclaimed Sara excitedly after judge Leroy Boyd of Starkville, Mississippi tapped her lamb for the win. No stranger to the winner's circle, the Farm Show champion also took top honors at last September's York Fair.

Sarah explained that the ram is homebred, sired by a Wilson ram out of a Deakin ewe.

Later in the show Sunday afternoon, husband Tim exhibited their outstanding Hampshire spring ewe lamb to the championship of the Hampshire show. Judge Boyd described the eyecatching female as the entry displaying the "most size, scale and structural correctness."

Tim pointed out other important wins already captured by this impressive ewe sired by a Brubaker ram out of a Deakin ewe, including a fifth place in her class of late junior ewe lambs at the National Hampshire Show in Louisville, along with supreme champion ewe honors at the York Fair.

The Fleeners' two champions are part of a growing flock of Shropshire and Hampshire sheep that the couple keeps at the Brubaker's Lancaster farm. Sarah, is currently employed by Atlantic Breeder's Cooperative while Tim is an employee of L.H. Brubaker, Lancaster.

Dave Lytle of New London, Chester County, claimed both reserve championships in the Hampshire show. A senior at the University of Delaware majoring in agriculture business management, Dave owns a flock of 50 registered Hampshires.

Taking reserve grand champion ram honors was Lytle's spring ram lamb sired by Heatwave, an Idaho ram, and out of a Chapman ewe. Dave used the same ram to sire his reserve grand champion ewe, another spring lamb. This was the first show ring competition for the two reserve champion entries.

Lytle also exhibited the firstplace flock of the Hampshire show.

He noted that his interest in raising sheep began 10 years ago through 4-H experience. Lytle attributes much of his success to the support and help he's received

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Luzerne holds small farm conference

WILKES-BARRE — A Small Farm Livestock Conference will be held Feb. 19 at the Luzerne County Community College Conference Center in Nanticoke.

The conference is designed for owners of small acreages or small numbers of livestock. In general these are less than 20 head of breeding livestock or 25 head of market animals. Up-to-date production information will be provided, but it will be slanted toward small units. Only beef,

cattle, sheep, and swine enterprises will be covered. Ample question and discussion time will be provided.

The conference staff includes: Lester Burdette and Matt Parsons, Extension animal scientists, Penn State; Lawrence Hutchinson, D.V.M., Extension veterinarian, Penn State; E.V. Chadwick, county agent, Luzerne County; John Creighton, county agent, Wayne County: Allan Shoener, county agent, Schuylkill County; Donna Skog, county agent, Luzerne County; and Rick Smith, county agent, Sullivan County.

Pre-registration is required by Feb. 11. For more information or a registration form, contact Donna Skog, Cooperative Extension Service, Courthouse Anne, 5 Water St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711 or phone 712-825-1706, Wilkes-Barre or 717-459-0736, ext. 706 in the Hazleton area.

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