## Young Crawford shepherds go through paces

## BY NANCY KUNICK Staff Correspondent

MEADVILLE - The bleachers were filled for the 4-H Sheep Showmanship and Fitting classes at the Crawford County Fair, Tuesday, August 29.

equal divisions determined by birthdate. Each division consisted of approximately ten 4-Hers.

Showmanship was judged on the showman's attentiveness to both the judge and his animal and the animal's ability to respond to the The youth were grouped into five exhibitor. Each division was

judged for showmanship followed by fitting for overall cleanliness. When these classes were completed for all five divisions a blocking contest was held to determine a champion fitter.

Judging the show was Richard Kuzemchak, shepherd at Penn State. Chairpeople of the 4-H Sheep were Tom and Barb Griggs of R1 Hartstown.

Mrs. Griggs mentioned that a blocking contest had not been held for a few years at the fair. She decided to initiate it once again as "this is what they do in Harrisburg" and she wants the 4-H'ers to know what they're doing when they reach the state level.

It seems that the blocking contest is a 'true test' of the 4-H members ability to clip a lamb for show. Each individual is assigned a lamb, straight from the pasture and given 45 minutes to car and clip. When the time is up they are judged on the job they've done. No outside help is allowed for this contest.

Although this takes a bit longer and is optional for the sheep showers, almost everyone participates. By entering it is the only way to become Champion Fitter or to receive premium money for



Champion sheep showmen at Crawford Fair include Tom Trace and Emily Oberrath, intermediate division winner; and April Lorenz, junior intermediate.

	Showmanship	Fitting	Blocking
SR DIV	1 Tom Trace	Sue McCleiland	Rob Brown
	2 Dana Keily	Tom Trace	Tom Trace
	3 Ron Brown	Dana Kelly	Ron Brown
SR INT DIV	1 Mike Ernst 2 Deb Lang 3 Betty Miller	Deb Lang Betty Miller Bobbi Foreman	Betty Miller Tina Mook Deb Lang
INT DIV	1 Emily Obberath	Emily Obberath	Joe Cribbs
	2 Trene Horne	Joe Cribbs	Brenda Moox
	3 Heidi Szymkowski	Heidi Szymkowski	Bobbi Foreman
JR INT DIV	1 April Lorenz 2 Brian Trace 3 Laura Holsopple	Morgan Millard April Lorenz Kandice Calvert	Kandice Clavert Kelly McDonald April Lorenz
AIG RL	1 Robin Ernst	Steve McDonald	Gwen Smith
	2 Tracey Dengler	Adam Szymkowski	Steve McDonald
	3 Adam Szymkowski	Robin Ernst	Jason Gillette

fitting.

It is interesting to note that the sheep for the blocking contest are not being shown at the fair. They are brought in directly from the pasture to the fair that day for the contest. This year the sheep were owned by Randy Rhoades, of Cambridge Springs.

Following is a list of the three top winners in each class, of each division and the overall champions:

Champion 4-H Sheep Showman was Tom Trace of the Senior Division. Reserve Champion 4-H Sheep Showman was Mike Ernst of the Sr. Intermediate Division. Champion 4-H Sheep Fitter, determined by the blocking contest was Rob Brown from the Sr. Div. and Res. Champ. was Tom Trace, again of the Sr. Division.



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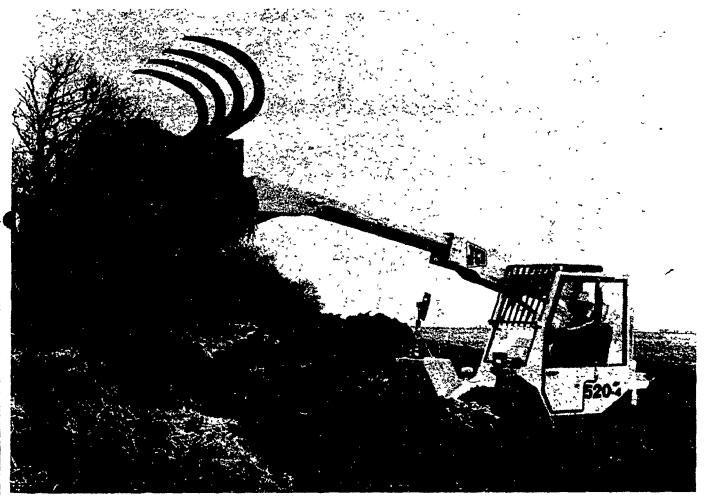
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Top 4-H sheep fitter at Crawford is Rob Brown, selected from five divisional winners in blocking contest.



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