

Brothers Make a Winning Team



The Engle family believes that 4-H is a family affair. Pictured above with Curt, left, and Tim are their parents, Sharon and Jerry.

BY KIMBERLY HERR
ELIZABETHTOWN — When Tim and Curt Engle, two brothers from Elizabethtown, step into the show ring, they usually walk out with ribbons.

Although they have only been raising and showing sheep for a few years, they will be making their second annual trip to the Farm Show this week.

Tim, age 14, will be showing a ram lamb, named Chester, a market lamb, weighing 125 pounds and a ewe lamb. Curt, age 11, will be showing one breeder sheep. The boys, sons of Sharon and Jerry Engle, have approximately 11 sheep at their home, Engle Acres. Both boys are members of the Lancaster County 4-H Woolies Club.

"He (Tim) started and then I got it off of him," Curt said, explaining how the brothers got started raising sheep.

"We lived in town, and we always wanted sheep," Tim added. "It was one of the reasons we moved to the country."

The Engles moved out of the town and into the country about

five years ago, according to Mrs. Engle, who explained that raising sheep was "a lifelong dream of my husband's."

That dream has turned into reality of Tim and Curt. At last year's Farm Show, Tim placed eighth with his breeder sheep in the junior class, and Curt placed seventh with his market lamb.

This year, the brothers combined have won champion market lamb at the Lancaster County round-up, first place in showmanship at three local fairs, champion ram at the West Lampeter Fair, champion Suffolk at the Manheim Fair and champion of the breeding stock at the county round-up, just to name a few. They also had champion and reserve champion at the Elizabethtown fair. This honor was a special one as both of these sheep were born and raised on Engle Acres.

To what do they attribute their success?

"We walk them to get their muscles built up," Curt said.

And Tim explained how the feeder they have makes the sheep jump up on the hind legs in order to

get the food. "This stretches their legs and builds up good leg muscles," Tim said.

The Engles' sheep are also on a "fitting ration," according to the boys, that contains oats, corn and molasses. About a week before shows the market lambs go on a diet.

"We just don't give them as much of anything," Tim said. The breeding sheep do not have to worry about being placed on a diet. "The breeders get all the fattening stuff," Tim laughed.

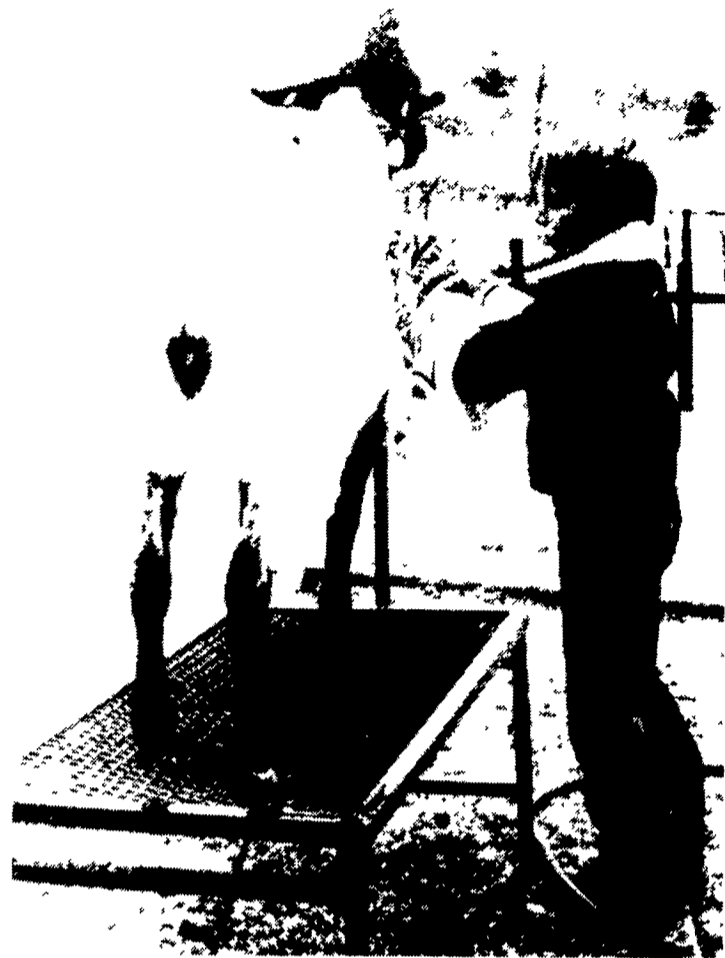
And in addition to the above, there is also the time factor involved. The week before the Farm Show, the Engles were busy washing their sheep on a chilly day that made the water freeze as it ran into the yard.

"Because of the weather we haven't been putting in as much time as we normally would," Tim said.

Although their sheep require much of their time, both of the brothers are active in school and church. Tim plays basketball for the junior high team at Elizabethtown Middle School and is on the Lancaster County judging team. He is also a member of a quiz team at the Elizabethtown Brethren in Christ Church. This year, Tim helped out with the Lady Lead Line competition at KILE.

Curt is also busy playing basketball at the Fairview Elementary School and is active in boys club at church.

But with all these other activities Curt and Tim still find time to care for their sheep and practice their showmanship abilities.



Curt Engle, age 11, will be taking one breeder sheep to the Farm Show this week. Above, Curt washes the sheep in preparation for its trip to Harrisburg.

"One wrong move and you sort of blew your chance," Tim said, explaining why it is important to practice being a good showman.

Curt explained that when they walk their sheep, they will often stop halfway through the walk and set the sheep up as they would in the ring. This, according to him, is good practice.

Do the boys still get nervous?
 "For about five seconds you are nervous, then it's all over," Curt said.

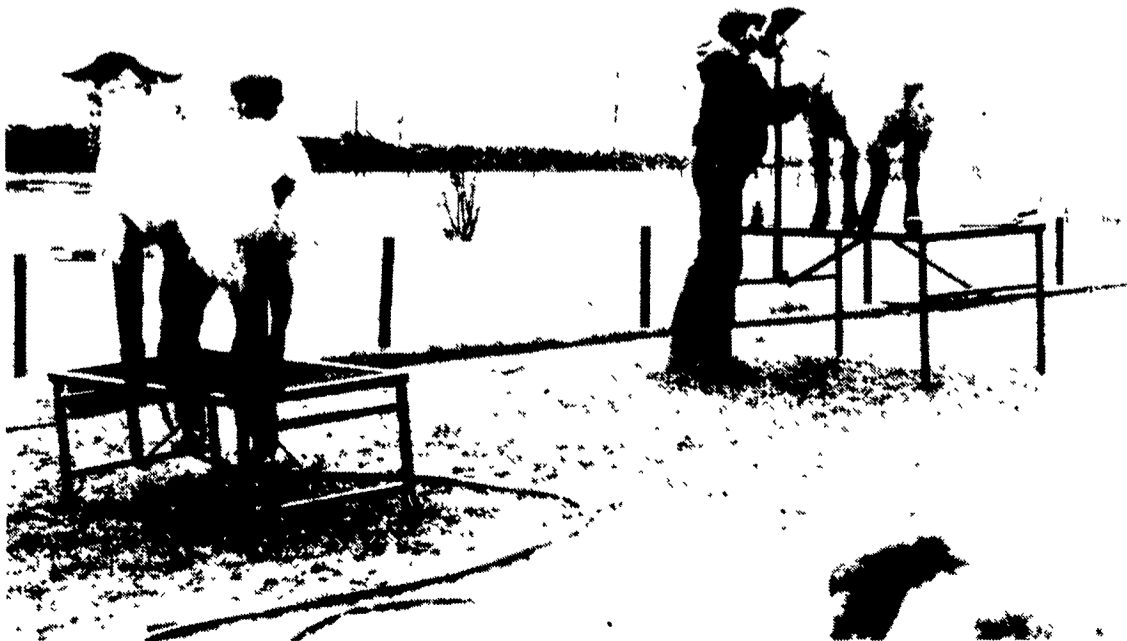
This year at the Farm Show, Tim will have some extra strain on his nerves as he is the only 4-H'er from Lancaster County participating in the block and fitting contest.

"They give you an hour to do the best you can," Tim said, explaining that he will have to groom a sheep that is right out of the field.

Claiming that experience is the best way to learn anything new, Tim said, "You just have to do it, then you see what you did wrong."



Tim Engle, age 14, washes one of the lambs he will be taking to the Farm Show. Pictured above is a ram lamb, named Chester.



Cold weather or not, sheep going to the Farm Show have to be washed, and above Tim and Curt Engle are engrossed in the job.