

Butler Countian gets sheep, wool crown

BY BARBARA RADER
Staff Correspondent

NEW CASTLE — Highlights of the Butler, Beaver, Lawrence Area Sheep and Wool Growers Spring Event on Feb. 4 at the Liberty Grange featured the crowning of the '84 Lamb/Wool Queen, the youth wool judging contest, open wool contest, Ladies League wool fashion show, election of directors, various guest speakers and 292 pounds of dressed lamb.

Butler Countian, Peggy McCrumb, 17-year-old daughter of the Rev. Robert and Sally McCrumb, of Mars, was crowned the '84 Lamb/Wool Queen during the event. She will represent Beaver, Butler and Lawrence Counties at the state wide competition later on in Harrisburg.

Two Lawrence County youths captured trophies, blue ribbons and cash prizes in the youth wool judging contest. Bridget Whiting, eight-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Whiting, won the junior division, 12 and under, and Janet Shuck, 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shuck, took the

honors of the senior division of 14 thru 17 years.

Being sponsored by the First National Bank at New Castle, the juniors had to judge two classes of wool, one a low quarter the other 3/8 blood. Mercer County Agent Bob Calvert served as official judge with Lee Miller and Curt Hughes, Beaver and Butler County agents, respectfully, having charge of the contest.

Contestants looked for wool character, strength and length of the fiber and extra added ingredients such as hay and feed matter in the fleeces while selecting their placings.

The open wool pool contest being sponsored by the Lawrence County Wool Growers presented the champion fleece trophy to Lloyd McCracken, New Castle, on his 3/8 blood entry. He also took second place winnings in this class. His flock of 10 ewes, which began as a hobby, will be acquiring more of his attention as he just retired. Wayne Hixenbaugh and Carl Shuler were third and fourth place winners, respectfully.

Robert and Rick Dunn, father

and son, took honors in the quarter blood and switched spots in the half blood class. Maggie Whiting received third place for her quarter blood fleece.

District 5 Director of Ladies League, Mrs. Shirley Dunn, Chicora, explained the contest rules on "Make it yourself with wool" and narrated a fashion show with five girls modeling. Janet Shuck, 16, modeled her slack and jacket outfit; Melinda Shaffer, 13, showed off her solid brown knickers; Carol Shuler was attired in her brown 2-piece short jacket and skirt, complemented with a 100% wool felt hat. A two-piece heather gray skirt and jacket was modeled by 20-year-old Robin Dunn, and Kim Schultheis modeled 17-year-old Sandy Schaffer's gray 2-piece skirt and jacket in her absence.

Dave Martin, Volant, conducted the business meeting in which seven new directors were elected to serve one year terms. Those elected were Robert Burry, Beaver County; William Fullerton and David Whiting, Lawrence County; Robert and Harold Dunn

and Jack Estess, Butler County; and Gerald Thoma from Ohio.

Calvert reported the state field days will be June 2 at Mercer County 4-H Park, adding that he would need some assistance with the program. He also announced that their would be no ram test sale this year and the Keystone sale had been moved from the Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, to the Carlisle Fairgrounds.

Jack Fischer, Dog Law officer in this area, was the featured morning speaker. He spoke on the rights sheep owners have concerning the intrusion of stray dogs and damages done by dogs.

Sally Young, Canonsburg, was guest afternoon speaker, advising the group how to better direct market wool and the pelts. She told of many different directions to go with marketing their fleeces. She showed several samples of wool done commercially and at home which was washed and carded and ready to spin. Stressing fleeces must be clean. "A little more effort brings back a better return as premium prices will be paid for cleaner wool," she said. Hand spinning is the newest market for wool outlets, according to Mrs. Young. She also noted quilting has picked up as a craft for the wool and sheep growers.

Sprayer workshop planned

NEWARK, Del. — Chemical control of weeds, insects and diseases is a critical part of today's farm operation. This makes the low-pressure field sprayer one of the most used pieces of equipment on the farm — and perhaps one of the most abused.

Each pesticide has its own method of application. For instance, herbicides (weedkillers) can be applied preplant contact or incorporated, pre-emergence, post-emergence over the top or directed, and selectively. Each method may require a different sprayer set-up and calibration, says University of Delaware extension power and machinery specialist Tom Williams.

Calibration is the key to successful results with pesticides, Williams says. Apply too little chemical and you get no control. Apply too much chemical and you may damage the crop as well as increase production costs.

A survey of field sprayer operators made by agricultural engineers at the University of Nebraska showed that only one out of four operators was applying

chemicals within plus or minus 5 percent of the intended rate. Improper or lack of calibration accounted for 78 percent of the errors. Errors ranged from 59 percent under to 83 percent over the intended rate. Checks on granular insecticide applicators give similar results.

Pesticide costs on no-till corn could exceed \$36 per acre. But applying these chemicals 50 percent above the intended rate would cost an additional \$8 per acre, a cost few farmers can afford today.

The Delaware Cooperative Extension Service is planning a calibration workshop to demonstrate sprayer maintenance and calibration techniques. The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 1, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Delaware State Fairgrounds on U.S. 13 in Harrington. Calibration techniques for PTO and ground-driven sprayers, granular applicators, corn planters, row fertilizer, and grain drills will be covered. The meeting will count toward recertification for pesticide applicators.

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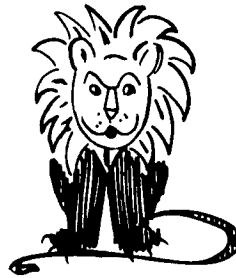
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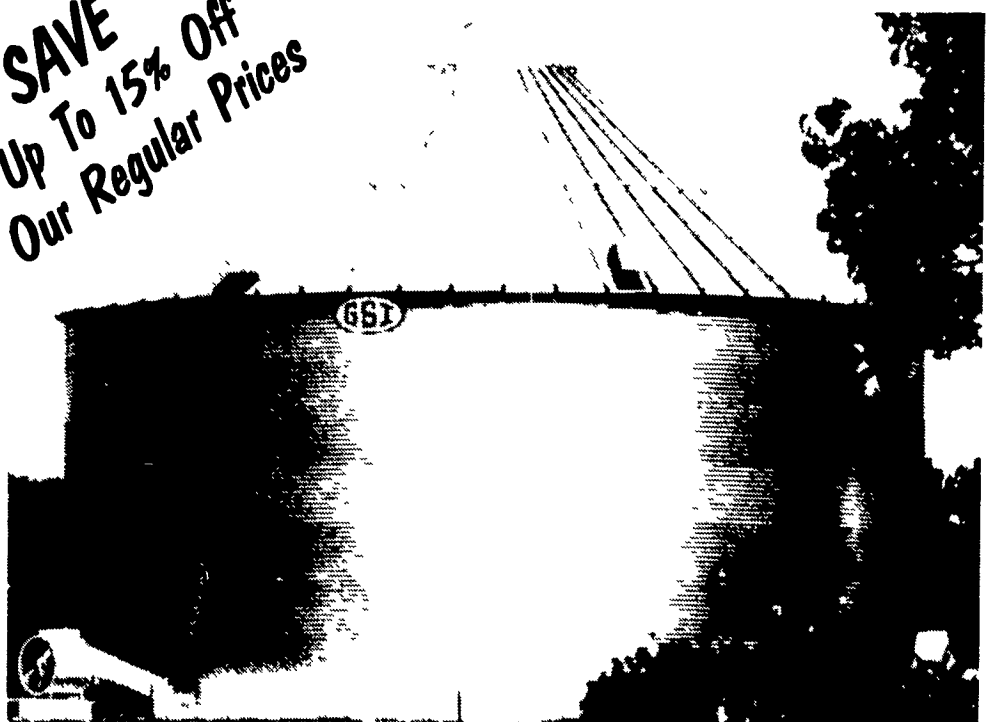
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