

# Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival:

## 'Shear' delight for 10,000 visitors



Judith Pfeiffer, of Good Hope Farm in Landenberg, displays her prize-winning ram, Satchmo. The Montadale cross was named supreme champion ram among the 83 entries in the fine, medium, long and coarse wool categories during the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival.



Tori Weaver, of Monkton, shows that her Angora rabbits can compete with the best of the wool producers.

BY JOHN SCHMIDT  
Staff Correspondent

HOWARD COUNTY — Selection of the new queen for 1984 helped start this year's festivities at the annual Sheep & Wool Festival held on the weekend of May 5. The new queen is Jubee Fischer of Montgomery County, Md. She competed among a talented field of young ladies displaying her prowess at both public speaking and handmade wool items. Jubee will represent the Maryland Sheep Breeders Association at many fairs and functions later this year to promote lamb and wool.

The Sheep and Wool Festival itself proved to be a larger, expanded version compared with previous years. Festival chairperson Mary Streaker indicated that the two day event held in early May each year may have exceeded 10,000 in attendance as opposed to approximately 8,000 people in 1983.

Exhibitors and enthusiasts traveled from many areas of Maryland and the northeastern region of the United States. New exhibits included a Fine Arts division for paintings and tapestries depicting sheep, and also an adult sheep judging contest.

The Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival is fortunate to have the spacious facilities of the Howard County, Maryland fairgrounds. All of the numerous displays and activities had plenty of area for interesting and pleasing presen-



DeGraff's Goats, of Poolesville, showcased their Angora Fleece at the festival.

tations. Some notable continuous displays attracted large crowds periodically. Weavers, spinners and crafts people highlighted exhibits covering many sheep and wool related activities.

Those in attendance could purchase a wide variety of items varying from fleeces, sheepskins, vests and sweaters, to handmade brooms, prints, watercolors and educational pamphlets.

An established or future sheep breeder could also find virtually all equipment and information regarding sheep care and handling. Top sheep people from across the state were on hand to

assist with educational and information booths and other festival functions. There is always a spirit of enthusiasm and cooperation at all phases of the festival.

Throughout Saturday and Sunday, contests and competitions pleased crowds both in and outdoors. The long wool sheep show attracted numerous participants in the white and colored wool divisions. The white wool show consisted of 34 exhibitors with 134 sheep. The premier exhibitor was Jeffrey Ruppert of Union Bridge, Md.

One hundred seventy-seven colored sheep were shown by thirty-six exhibitors with premier honors going to Rolling Meadow Farm of Dickerson, Md.

A carcass contest was also held and the top carcass came from Hope's Hampshire Farm of Knoxville, Md. During the annual feeder lamb sale, Troy Ness of Dallastown, Pa. took top honors for the champion pen and individual. He also had the highest selling lamb at \$185.00.

Many sheep breeders participated in the fleece competition. Two hundred, thirty-three fleeces were entered and judged as Wayne Ohlssen of Vermont received champion with a black fleece. One thousand, thirty-two pounds of fleece were sold privately during the festival for a respectable average \$2.32 per pound.

The annual 4-H/FFA sheep judging contest saw Howard County place first in junior and senior divisions of team competition. Individual winners included: Brian Etzer, Frederick County, Junior; Donna Biggs, Howard County, Senior; and Troy Ness, Dallastown, Pa. winner in the new adult division.

Other contests included sheep shearing for novices and professionals, a Maryland "Make It With Wool" promotion, Maryland Grand Lamb Cookoff, Sheep to Shawl and Sheep Dog trials that spanned both days.

The festival has food booths with all types of lamb dishes and recipes and free samples as in the case of the Grand Lamb Cook Off. Each year there are new and improved activities at the Md. Sheep and Wool Festival that make it very worthwhile to attend.

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