

Mike Arendt makes debut at Farm Show lamb competition

BY JOYCE BUYP
Staff Correspondent

NEW FREEDOM — At age 18, Mike Arendt is making his debut this year as an exhibitor in the Farm Show's market lamb youth competition.

Through earlier competition in York County, Arendt, a 4-H member for about a decade, and his outstanding lambs qualified to represent the county in the prestigious statewide market lamb show.

Last fall, Arendt's pair of Suffolk-Hampshire crossed lambs took first place in their respective classes at the York Fair, copping the veteran 4-H'er a slot for the January project runoffs for the year, with his third of the trio of market entries.

"It's been my best show season so far," asserts the Susquehannock High School senior.

The winning lambs were purchased by Arendt from the flock of Jerry Furhman, New Freedom R1.

As all successful exhibitors know, livestock competition isn't a last minute event. In preparation, Arendt has been working with his entry for several weeks. An initial step was having the black-muzzled lamb sheared several weeks ago.

"For competition, the wool shouldn't go past the first knuckle on your finger," explains the young 4-H shepherd. "Exactly when you shear them before a show depends on the breed and the growth rate of that particular lamb's fleece."

To maintain a well-muscled, but not overly fat lamb, Arendt and his wether have had regular running sessions around the Arendt farm's

spacious yard. Frequent grooming has helped maintain a clean and unmatted fleece, with special emphasis on keeping dirt buildup from accumulating between the flanks.

Those inevitable show baths, stoically borne by exhibit animals, are with a quality liquid detergent, plenty of brushes and lots of elbow power, finishing up with a vigorous toweling and an air-dry finish. Sheep judges are notorious for peeking into woolly ears to check for cleanliness, so soft rags are used to carefully wipe away the dirt and dust that clings to the inner ear's softness.

The 4-H market lamb competition is scheduled for mid-morning on Wednesday, followed by the Friday sale that marks a final goodbye by youthful exhibitors to animals that have been part learning, part work, and part good friend.

Mike is the son of grain and livestock producers Luther and Hilda Arendt, New Freedom R1. The Arendt's crop corn, wheat barley, oats and hay, and maintain a feedlot with about 50 steers.



Daily grooming and exercise jaunts have Mike Arendt's Suffolk-Hampshire wether ring-ready for Farm Show competition.

New state law will effect prices of fertilizers

HARRISBURG — Extensive changes will be made in Pennsylvania's fertilizer, soil conditioner and plant growth substance law effective next month.

House Bill 1983, which was introduced by Rep. Terry Scheetz (R-Lancaster) in March, revises current law regulating the sale and distribution of plant growth substances. The measure was approved by the state House in September, passed by the Senate in November and signed by the governor last month.

"The legislation was approved nearly unanimously and was amended only slightly," Scheetz

said. "The new Law will ensure fair tolerance levels, appropriate penalties and regulations acceptable to both farmers and fertilizer companies."

"For instance, current law doesn't allow for separation of fertilizer components which occurs as a result of shipping and handling. Testing of ingredients after such separation often makes it appear that farmers are being cheated when in fact they're not."

Scheetz said current tolerance levels and penalties are so far out of line with other states that companies are often assessed penalties unfairly, resulting in

higher fertilizer prices for farmers.

"The revisions will correct unreasonable requirements and fines," said Scheetz. "But it will also stiffen penalties for suppliers who are clearly attempting to shortchange farmers."

Another important change included in the new law is the

diversion of penalty fees to a special Agriculture Department account for fertilizer and plant research, Scheetz said. Currently, revenues from such fines are returned to the general fund.

Scheetz described the new law as "essential to controlling the cost of fertilizer and other plant growth substances."

New high-protein rice flour developed

WASHINGTON — A new rice flour, three times richer in protein than standard rice flour, could help improve child nutrition overseas, a U.S. Department of Agriculture researcher found.

Linn P. Hansen, food chemist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, said the flour "could become important in helping reduce malnutrition among children in less developed nations."

She said the new flour — called CHP-rice flour — contains 25 percent protein, compared with 8

percent for standard rice flour. Hansen worked on the project for three years at the agency's Western Research Center in Albany, Calif.

Rice flour is made from broken rice grains that usually cost about half as much as whole rice on domestic and world markets, Hansen said.

She said the new rice processing method is available for commercial use. It relies on the chemical action of an enzyme from the beneficial fungus *Aspergillus Oryzae*, which is commonly used in the food processing industry.

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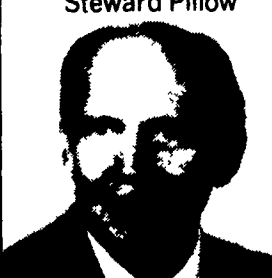


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