

Students Compete in Little International

BY MARY MAXWELL
Staff Correspondent

UNIVERSITY PARK — Penn State's Ag Arena was the site last Saturday of the 69th Little International Livestock Show. Preparations began in February when the Block and Bridle Club, sponsor of the Little I, met with 130 students from all across the campus to draw lots. This matched participating students with Penn State animals. The Little I emphasizes quality fitting and showmanship developed during a designated time period. Beef competitors have many weeks to prepare, but sheep exhibitors have less time to get their animals ready for the show ring.

This year 75% of the exhibitors had no experience fitting and showing animals. Pre-med student Ramana Yalamanchili was one of the inexperienced. "I had never been around animals, but friends in Ag suggested I try," she said. "I had just two weeks to work with this sheep. She's a wild one!"

Other students found that even though they had been in the show ring many times before with their own animals, showing a new and inexperienced animal created difficulties. Grand Champion Showman Joan Romesburg shows her 10-year-old gelding with ease, but said of Penn State's Super Reward, "This yearling is really different. He does all kinds of strange things! But," she added, "I've learned a lot. People really help you."

This year's Little International was dedicated to one of those helpful people — Dirk Wise, assistant shepherd at the Penn State Sheep Center. "He has helped us with fitting and showmanship skills every year and keeps everyone at ease with his patience and humor," said Lu-Ann Wherry, member of the Little I publicity committee. "He's been especially good with students who have never worked with sheep before."

The Penn State Block and Bridle Club also honored Joseph Harrington, Professor of Agronomy for his help with club activities in the new Ag Arena.

Little International judges were all Penn State alumni. Dave Wise

('82), herd manager of ErReR Hill Farms, Friedens, judged the beef. Becky Pearson ('78), sheep specialist in Walpole, NH, judged sheep. Greg Bard ('80), farm manager for Pennfield Corp., Lancaster, judged swine and Paulette Stoudt ('83), trainer, Mt. Springs Resort, Shartlesville; horses.

Class champions in the 69th Little I were:

CATTLE

Grand Champion Showman, Guy

McKean, Mercer; Reserve Grand Champion Showman, Jenny Shick, New Castle; Grand Champion Fitter, Guy McKean, Mercer; Reserve Grand Champion Fitter, Jan Waltz, Manheim.

SHEEP

Grand Champion Showman, Bob Mikesell, Marion Center; Reserve Grand Champion Showman, Marlene McCutcheon, Vandergrift; Grand Champion Fitter, Ginie Wilcox, Titusville; Reserve Grand Champion Fitter, Bill McCauley, Atglen.

SWINE

Grand Champion Showman, Chad Cash, Centre Hall; Reserve Grand Champion Showman, William Lesh, Bernville; Grand Champion Fitter, Dominic Centonze, Herrick Center; Reserve Grand Champion Fitter, Chad Cash, Centre Hall.

HORSES

Grand Champion Showman, Joan Romesburg, Rockwood;

Reserve Grand Champion Showman, Carla DuRand, State College; Grand Champion Fitter, Jennifer Minnich, Wilmington, DE; Reserve Grand Champion Fitter, Joan Romesburg, Rockwood.

Guy McKean from Mercer was named Grand Champion Showman Overall and Chad Cash, Centre Hall, was named Reserve Grand Champion Showman Overall.



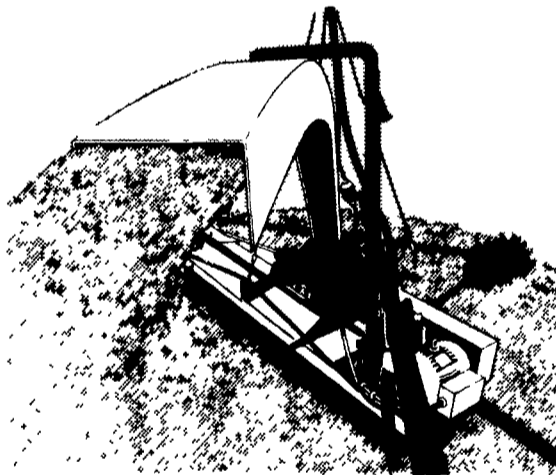
Joy Ellwanger, bio science major from Bellefonte, shows Dorset ewe.



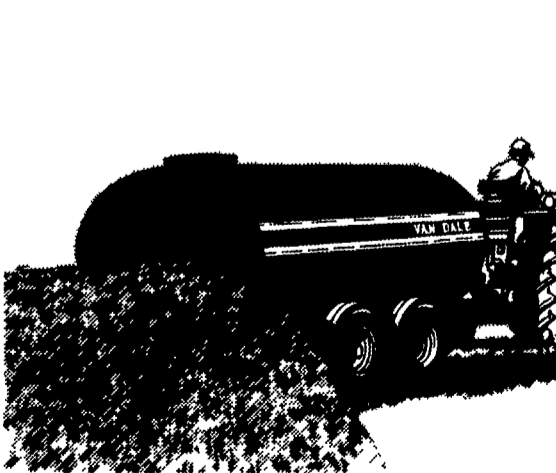
Kathy Meckley, an animal production major from Adams County, received a blue ribbon for fitting.

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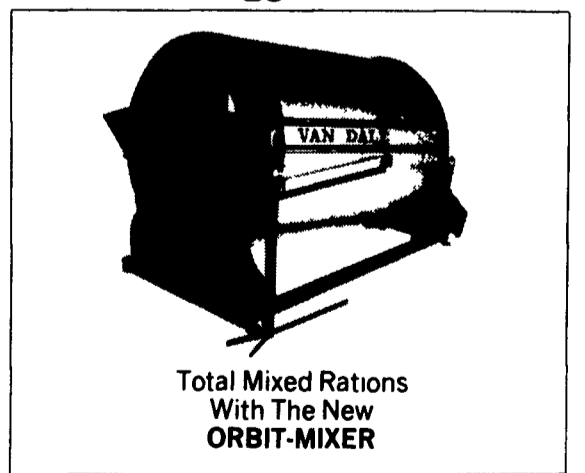
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