Bollinger Lamb Tops Manheim 'Show Of Champions'

BY MARTHA GEHRINGER AND the final round. **JACK HUBLEY**

MANHEIM The Elizabethtown Fair's show might have been bigger, but Thursday night's market lamb show at the Manheim Fair was truly the show of champions, as five of the county's seven market lamb champs competed for the fair's grand champion trophy.

"I thought it was impossible," said the show's eventual winner, Kevin Bollinger, of Lititz, who snatched the top title from defending champion Ellen Lewis in

Winning at Manheim is a feat that requires no small amount of staying power. Champions are named in both an open market lamb show, and also in a market show involving only those sheep to be sold at Manheim's junior livestock sale the following night. From these two sets of champions and reserves, the judge selects his top two sheep over both shows.

Bollinger, who lives in Lititz but attends Ephrata High School, won the heavyweight division of the open show with his 124-pound

Suffolk wether. He then took the open show title before defeating Ellen Lewis' champion sale lamb for the overall grand championship.

The show's outcome was quite a surprise to the 18-year-old FFA'er, who thought his sale lamb, that had been named grand champion at the Denver Fair, was better than his open show entry that judge Bob Leib finally singled out as the evening's best market lamb.

The son of Walter and Betty Bollinger, Kevin raised only two lambs for the showring this year, and both have proven their ability to bring home the rosettes. Bollinger bought them from B&B Livestock of Ohio. He plans to enter his grand champion in the county roundup, and later, hopefully, in the state farm show.

At reserve in the overall show was the sale lamb champion shown by Ellen Lewis, 17, the daughter of George and Lorraine Lewis of Mount Joy. Lewis' homebred Hampshires are always among the county's top contenders, and her 126-pound sale lamb was no exception.

By evening's end the veteran sheep exhibitor's stall was awash in ribbons from her long list of victories. Lewis also showed the reserve champion in the open show, a homebred 122-pound lamb out of Betsy, her state farm show champion Hamp lamb in 1985. She also showed the champion pen of lambs and took the supreme and reserve supreme titles over all breeds in the breeding sheep show earlier in the evening.

Right behind Ellen Lewis in the sale lamb show was Jason Stoltzfus of Elizabethtown, who took the reserve title with his 123-pound Suffolk-cross wether.

The son of Frank and Irene Stoltzfus, Jason bought his lamb



Kevin Bollinger (right) had grand champion market lamb at Manheim Fair and Ellen Lewis had reserve.

from John Conaway at the Bankert sale in York County. This was the nine-year-old 4-H'er's first year of sheep show competition.

Breeding Sheep

Supreme champion honors of the breeding sheep show went to the Hampshire ewe owned by Ellen Lewis of Landisville. The yearling ewe also claimed grand champion honors of the Hampshire breed.

The Hempfield High School senior purchased her ewe at the Midwest Stud Ram Sale. Although this is the first time the ewe has been tested at a county youth show, the champion placed fifth in her class earlier this week at the **Keystone International Livestock** Exposition.

Because she placed well in large open shows, Friday's victory came as no great surprise for the daughter of George and Lorraine Lewis.

The reserve supreme champion title went to a Ellen's reserve champion Hampshire, a ewe lamb. The reserve champion claimed supreme honors at the Lancaster County 4-H Roundup, Ellen said. This champion is out of champion stock. The mother of the reserve ewe stood in the champion position of the Hampshire Junior Show at the Farm Show in Harrisburg this past year, Ellen noted.

Other breed champions include: Arlisa Snavely, grand and reserve grand Shropshire; Mark Tracy, grand and reserve grand Southdown; and Carey Donches, grand and reserve grand Suffolk.

Bob Leib, a Mechanicsburg sheep breeder, judged the show. Results of the show follow.

Senior Showman
1 Tricia Musser 2 Carey Donches 3 Michelle

(Turn to Page A35)



Ellen Lewis won grand champion Hampshire and supreme breeding ewe honors of the Manheim Farm Show with her vearling ewe.

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