

Sheep Breeders Face Stiff Competition In Open Breeding Shows

BY SUZANNE KEENE AND MARTHA J. GEHRINGER

HARRISBURG — Competition among sheep breeders at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition is always intense, and this year's contest was no exception. Drawing contenders from Maine to Maryland, the open breeding shows this week saw large classes of immaculately fitted entries from the area's top breeders.

Cheviot

Despite competition from 11 other exhibitors, Kenneth Moore Jr. of Rome showed his entries to

the top placing in all classes of Cheviot competition and claimed the champion ram and ewe honors along with the reserve champion ram rosette. The reserve champion ewe belonged to Erdenheim Farm of LaFayette, N.J.

Moore's champion ewe was a spring ewe lamb making its showing debut. The lamb's stylish, flashy appearance captured the judge's eye, Moore's wife, Lorrie, said.

The champion ram, a homebred spring lamb, added still another win to his record; He has not yet been beaten in his class, Moore

reported. He will continue his show career at Farm Show.

Hampshire

Bedinger breeding showed its strength in the Hampshire competition Friday. The champion ram was a yearling purchased from breeder Charles Bedinger of Illinois, while the champion ewe's grandfather was a Bedinger ram.

The champion ram, owned by William Maghes of McConnelsville, Ohio, has been undefeated as a yearling and will travel to Louisville later this year to compete in the national show.

Richard Field of Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, exhibited the champion ewe, a yearling that topped an entry by Rebecca Hope of Knoxville, Md. to claim the class and the championship. Hope's second place yearling went on to be named reserve champion.

Field's ewe came to Keystone bearing an impressive show record that includes championships at West Virginia and York Fairs. She was first in her class at the "Big E" and reserve champion at the Eastern National Show in Timonium, Md.

"She's one of our favorites," shepherds Joyce Burnham and Kenneth Kuykendall said following the show.

The reserve champion ram belonged to competitor Debbie Gengler of Pittstown, N.J. and her spring lamb.

Hope, who claimed the reserve ewe, also had the exhibitor's flock, first place ewe lamb and pair of ram lambs.

Oxford

Brothers Kevin and Michael Gates of Pleasant Valley, N.Y. captured the champion ram and ewe honors in the Oxford show Friday. Judge G.L.M. Chappell of Lexington, Ky. selected their homebred yearling for his champion ram and another homebred yearling for his champion ewe.

Earlier in the year, the ram had been named reserve champion at the New York State Fair; the ewe was champion there. Michael Gates said he purchased the ewe's dam from Westovens of Ohio at the Keystone Sale a few years ago.

Gates also showed the top exhibitor's flock and pair of yearling ewes.

Reserve honors in the Oxford show went to Gerald Thoma of Kensington, Ohio and his spring ram lamb, and to Glenn Heffner of Fleetwood and his spring ewe lamb.

Dorset

Competition in the Dorset show was especially tough, with 42 exhibitors contending for the championships. When judge G.L.M. Chappell had finished scrutinizing the carefully-groomed entries, he went to a spring lamb owned by Skip and Cheryl Heeg of Tully, N.Y. for his champion ewe and to a spring ram lamb owned by Windswept Farm of State College for his champion ram.

The ram's sire was last year's Keystone champion and went on to be the high seller at the Ohio Dorset Sale held earlier this year. He sold for a whopping \$7,700, reported George Downsborough of Windswept Farm.

The homebred champion ewe came to KILE with showing experience at the Big E, where she was first in her class.

The reserve champion ram was a yearling owned by Mike Koehler of Schnecksville, and the reserve ewe was the second place spring lamb owned by Scott Kuzemchak of Pleasant Gap. Kuzemchak also had the reserve champion sale lamb. Wade Brothers of Greenville, Va. showed the sale champion.

Shropshire

Maine breeder Peter D'Ambra dominated the Shropshire show,

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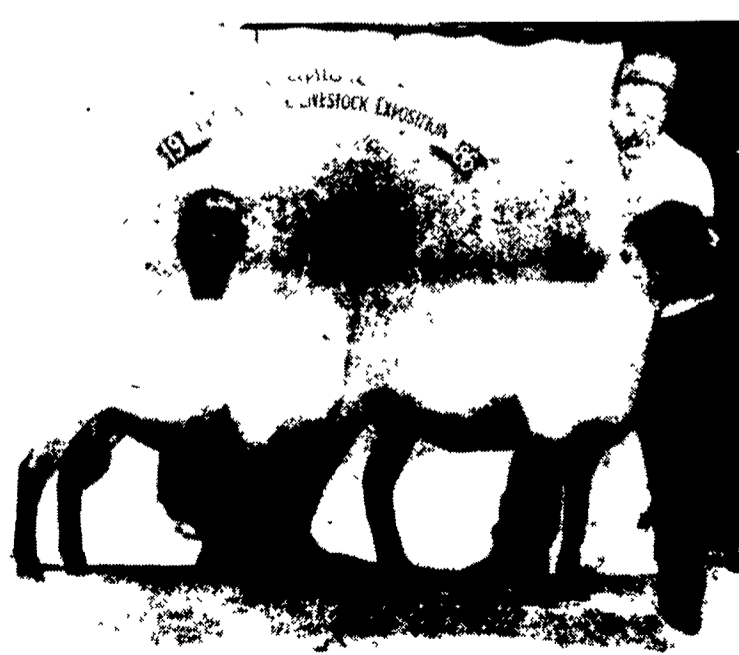
In Shropshire competition, Robert Dinsmore, left, showed the champion ram and Peter D'Ambra, right, had the champion ewe.



John and Jean Woodward of Sabillasville, Md. swept the open Romney show. Here, they show their champion ram and ewe.



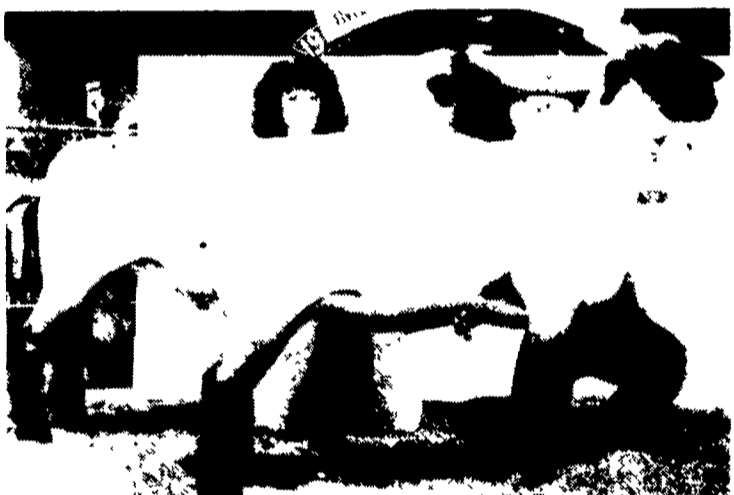
Shaunna Jones owned the ram and ewe champion of the Southdown breed. Presenting the sheep for her in the ring were handlers Joyce Burnham, left, with the champion ram and Kenneth Kuykendall, posing the champion ewe.



Bob Harmann holds the champion Suffolk ewe and Dave Harmann steadies the champion ram. Laurel Farms owns both champions.



Kenneth Moore Jr., right, and his wife, Lorrie, show their Cheviot champions.



The champion Hampshire ewe belonged to Richard Field, while William Maghes owned the champion ram. Here Barb Herr, left, shows the ram and Joyce Burnham, right, holds the ewe.



Champions in the Oxford show belonged to Michael and Kevin Gates of Pleasant Valley, N.Y. Here, Michael shows the ram, while friend Donald Kading shows the ewe.



Bill MacCauley, left, shows the champion Dorset ram, owned by Windswept Farm of State College, and Bob Harmann, right, holds the champion ewe, owned by Skip and Cheryl Heeg of Tully, N.Y.