

Junior Breeders Exhibit Their Finest Ewes

By Lisa Risser
HARRISBURG — With ages ranging from 5 to 20, Pennsylvania's youngest sheep breeders gathered at the Farm Show on Wednesday to show their best

ewes. Judge Duran Howard from Mulhall, Ok., chose champions and reserve for seven breeds. These select few will influence bloodlines for years to come.



The champion and reserve champion Dorset ewes were shown by Alicia Strausbaugh, center. Helping her was Rachael Hixenbaugh and her brother, Jeff Strausbaugh.



Robert B. McCrumb III showed the champion ewe in the Merino class. His sister, Becky, showed the lamb for him.



The stylish, eye-appealing ewe exhibited by Arlisa Snavelly was judged champion Shropshire.



No stranger to winning, Donna MacCauley showed the junior champion and reserve Cheviot ewes.

Cheviot

The homebred ewes shown by 17-year-old Donna MacCauley of Atglen (Chester) captured the champion and reserve champion titles. MacCauley has had many champions with her Cheviot's as well as the Suffolk that she also raises. In last year's junior competition, she showed the reserve champion and two years ago had both reserve and champion. MacCauley also competes in the open show. This year she showed both champion and reserve champion Cheviot ewe.

Dorset

Only a judge can tell a champion and even then it's often a matter of opinion. Alicia Strausbaugh of York showed two home-bred Dorset ewe lambs of which the Junior champion was named reserve in the Open show while the Junior reserve champion was the Open show champion. The Keystone Internal Livestock Exposition judge agreed with the Junior show judge. Alicia, 15, has been showing for six years, during which time she's had three junior champions.

Hampshire

Ellen Lewis of Mt. Joy (Lancaster) swept the top spots in the Hampshire classes to have the champion and reserve champion ewes. This is the second year running that she's had both champion and reserve. The granddam of her champion, Zwanzig, was Lewis' first Farm Show junior champion. Lewis has been a 4-H'er for eight years. "It's given me a lot of help with sportsmanship, trimming, fitting, and feeding," she said. Lewis and her parents, George and Lorraine, have 35 registered Hampshires.

Merino

Robert B. McCrumb III of Mars (Butler) is doing well in this, his first year to show Merinos at Farm Show. Monday night he had champion and reserve in the open show, and on Wednesday he showed the junior champion breeding ewe. The junior champion was named reserve champion in the open show. McCrumb also raises Dorsets, Southdowns and Shropshire.

Reserve champion ewe was a lamb exhibited by Barbara Falvey of Bedford (Bedford). Falvey also competed in the open show having the champion ewe.

Shropshire

Lily, the stylish and eye-appealing yearling ewe that Arlisa Snavelly of Lancaster showed the champion ewe. Fourteen-year-old Snavelly picked the champion out of a group of triplets. "She was unusual because she was larger than the other two, said Snavelly. Lily competed in the open show and received reserve champion honors. Her dam is from the New-comer line while the sire is a Hartzell. Snavelly, a 4-H'er, is the daughter of Jim and Arlene Snavelly.

The second-place yearling ewe owned by Gwendolyn Perry of Hamburg (Berks) was judged reserve champion. Perry also competed in the open show, receiving third place in the flock class.

Southdown

Dan Wehr, president of Lehigh County FFA, showed the chapter's home-bred yearling ewe that captured the championship spot. Exhibitors for the past 8 years this is the chapter's first farm show champion. The FFA chapter has a flock of 40 Southdowns. "The kids do the breeding and selecting," said advi-

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Representing Lehigh County FFA, Don Wehr showed the champion Southdown ewe. With him is Boyd Wolff, secretary of agriculture, center, and Judge Duran Howard.



For the second year in a row, Ellen Lewis showed the champion and reserve Hampshire ewes.



Nineteen-year-old Rachael Hixenbaugh showed the champion Suffolk ewe.