

County, District, State Awards Gain Top Placing For Horse-Loving Teen

BY LOU ANN GOOD LITITZ (Lancaster Co.) — For the third year in a row, Alison Farrington earned the top county award at the 4-H Horse Club recognition banquet held at the Farm and Home Center.

The Lititz teen amassed the most points at county, district and state levels to win the coveted award.

"She's been riding and showing horses since she was three-years-old," Alison's mother, Helen, remarked. "We didn't know what to do with her when we were showing horses so we stuck her on a horse and she took off."

Helen and her husband John own Lower Hopewell Farms where they raise registered Appaloosas and board horses.

Alison said that her older sister, Alida, won the same award three years in a row. "I couldn't get it

until she got too old to compete in 4-H," Alison said.

The Warwick senior participates in the diversified occupation program, which enables her to earn credit by working at the stables from 1 to 5 o'clock each afternoon.

Alison credits her training instructor, Natalie Kline, and 4-H leaders, Pete and Jean Immel of the Broken Bit Club, for helping her successfully compete on county, state and national levels. This year alone she placed first in western pleasure, 3-year-old; third with two-year-old filly; fourth with Western Pleasure two-year-old; third with stock seat equitation in the senior division; and seventh in open trail.

With her favorite horse, "Wheat Eater", Alison won the Pleasure Futurity category two years in a row. She believes she is the only person that won the title in two

successive years.

In addition to her 4-H competition, Alison has won national titles on the Appaloosa circuit in performance classes such as English riding, hunt seat equitation, and hunter hack, and in confirmation classes such as halter youth mare and youth geldings.

From mid-April until October, Alison shows horses. But she works year around with the 40 horses on her parents' 250-acre farm. She and her sister train the horses, feed them and clean out the stables. She also has a winter project of breaking a horse.

Alison said, "If a horse is really smart, it may take only 30 days to break them; otherwise, it can take a year."

The 17-year-old enjoys doing everything with horses and plans to continue working on her parents' farm after graduation.

In gratitude to the 4-H program, Allison said, "4-H keeps me out of trouble because there isn't time to do anything else."

Other award winners at the 4-H banquet held December 2, included: Deana Mentzer, hunter seat eq., Jr. and sixth in hunter hack horses; Jennie Olweiler, hunter horse; Becky Preiss, grooming and showmanship; Kate Moxley, first in hunter seat eq. Jr.; Angela Frantz, first yearling gelding; Eileen Holm, third English



With "Wheat Eater," Allison Farrington has captured regional and national awards in horse showing and riding competition. Allison was named high point scorer by Lancaster County 4-H Horse Clubs' annual banquet on December 2.

Pleasure; Chris Miller, Sheila Kraybill, Derek Bomberger and Mike Kerdeman for state horse judging.

State horse bowl winners included Sharon Harnish, Michel-

le Kerdeman, Melissa Harris and Leah Harvey.

State demonstration winners included Tammy Bridgett, Jessica Hill, Michele Harris, and Elizabeth Hess.

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