

Scenes From Elizabethtown Fair

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ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — Folks like Wilbur and Ruth Witman make Elizabethtown Fair the place to be from August 20 through 24.

The Witmans of Elizabethtown entered five items in the vegetable and fruit competition. And, folks like Lester and Lois Martin of the

same town, and Betty and Jerre Groff of Manheim come to admire the prize-winning displays.

The Witmans are produce hobby growers. They have only two peach trees, one Sun High and one Red Haven, and, they planted 32 pounds of potatoes, but that was enough to gather perfect peaches and potatoes that took first place ribbons at the county fair.

Drought conditions this year did not affect the quality and size of the vegetables, although Witman did water them occasionally.

"I fell off the ladder while picking peaches on Saturday night," Witman said. On Monday, he injured his hand while spearing tobacco.

Fortunately, he did not have serious injuries and the blue ribbons

made his efforts worthwhile. His wife also entered peaches, for which she received fourth place. Ruth also received fourth place for a fan fern that she entered in house-plant competition.

Vegetable and fruit competition isn't just an older generation hobby. Three cousins got an early start by claiming the first three placings in the pumpkin category.

Trevor Reider, 9, James, Reider, 7, and Billy Lewis, 8, got ribbons for their pumpkins that range in weight from 72 to 75 pounds.

Their grandfather, John Reider of Elizabethtown, plants the pumpkin seeds indoors, and the cousins help transplant them and care for the pumpkins. When fair time arrives, the cousins draw straws to decide who gets to show which pumpkin. The prize money is split with the cousins.

The boys attributed the growth of their pumpkins to watering them with manure water. Each year, they save the seeds to start next year's crop.

Trevor and James are the sons of Jack and Mariann Reider of E-town. Billy is the son of William

and Sally Lewis of E-town.

The livestock competition and the champion sale of animals drew a large crowd on Thursday night. Janelle Wivell earned the fair's highest award when her supreme champion Holstein was named supreme of the Fair. The 17-year-old raised the cow at her dad's (Joe) farm in Columbia. The cow daily produces 100 pounds of milk.

Highlights of the champion sale included Sarah Boyd's 234-pound grand champion hog that sold for \$2.40 per pound to Hatfield Quality Meats. Groff's Meat of E-town purchased the reserve champion hog for \$2.20 per pound from Travis Donough, the 125-pound reserve champion market lamb for \$1.25 per pound from Garth Campbell, and the 1,355-pound grand champion steer for \$1.10 per pound from Peter Hoffines.

Lebanon Valley National Bank purchased Lisa Reiff's 127-pound grand champion market lamb for \$3 per pound, and Walter Heistand paid \$1.06 per pound for the reserve champion steer owned by Jason Stoltzfus.



Wilbur and Ruth Witman (right) of E-town show their prize winning peaches to Lester and Lois Martin, E-town.



Three cousins won the top three placings for their pumpkins at the E-town Fair. From left, Trevor Reider, 9, James Reider, 7; and Billy Lewis, 8.



These folks keep an eye on fruit, vegetable, and craft entries at the E-town Fair. From left, William, Billy, and Sally Lewis with A.J. Mann make sure that no one walks off with an item.



Sarah Boyd sold her 234-pound grand champion hog for \$2.40 per pound to Kenton Good representing Hatfield Quality Meats. E-town Fair Queen Kelly Nolt holds the winning plaque.



E-town Fair Queen Kelly Nolt watches as Frank Groff, left, of Groff's Meat purchases Travis Donough's 216-pound reserve champion hog for \$2.20 per pound.