

Hog Exhibitor Proves It's Possible To Be A First-Time Champion

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Lancaster Farming Staff
QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — Keith Martin, 15, a freshman at Lancaster Mennonite, learned Thursday that a first-time champion can be a grand champion of an entire show.

It was his first championship placing at any fair event, and it brought some surprise for him, as well as the trophy for his 258-pound last-of-the-heavyweight class Hampshire/Duroc gilt at the Solanco Fair Swine Show on Thursday.

For Sue Brown, 17, a senior at Penn Manor, this was her third year of exhibiting (she placed in 1989 grand champion at the Lampeter show). She has been showing three years at Solanco, and picked

up reserve championship with her 243-pound champion light heavy-weight purebred Spotted.

Judge Ken Winebark, Lebanon Co. agent, saw the challenge in sorting through 85 pigs for the champion. The belted gilt was "the second leanest in the show," he said, "and has tremendous thickness. The gilt is freer moving and I really like the length of the gilt."

The reserve showed a lot of freshness and good rib area, as well as ease of movement. "It's a real good market hog, a very productive hog," said Winebark.

At the conclusion of the showmanship contest, Winebark reminded the young exhibitors that they need to show the best they can show "all the time," he said.

Senior exhibitors must know

and understand the industry. As Winebark was judging, he quizzed the exhibitors on carcass evaluation, including providing an estimate of loin eye. He said the senior group "needs to be on top of things" and know what kind of "pork chop" the hog will have. Some understood the questions and could accurately answer them. But exhibitors "should know the industry standards and try not to guess," Winebark said.

Exhibitors should also keep the pig moving and stay about 20 feet away from the judge.

Show competitors should also keep a brush in hand and use it when necessary.

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Keith Martin, 15, left, won champion market hog with his 258-pound Hampshire/Duroc cross gilt on Thursday at the Solanco Fair Swine Show. Ken Winebark, Lebanon Co. agent, was judge for the show.



Sue Brown, 17, left, won reserve champion market hog with her 243-pound Spotted gilt at the Solanco Fair. Lebanon Co. Extension agent Ken Winebark judged the show.



Scott Wagner, 14, right, won champion junior showman honors at the Solanco Fair Swine Show with a 254-pound Duroc gilt. Ken Winebark judged the show.



First-time senior showman champion Stephanie Garrett, 16, right, a junior at Penn Manor, exhibited her 218-pound Spotted Duroc gilt at Solanco Fair. Ken Winebark was show judge.

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