

World's Finest Sheep Compete At NAILE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The National Southdown Show and Shropshire Show were held recently at the North American Livestock Exposition.

The National Southdown Show became the largest Southdown event in the world, featuring 344 sheep in 23 classes of competition. Breeders in twenty-three states competed for \$10,000 in premiums.

Southdowns are a breed of small, hornless sheep characterized by having a dense, short, fine-textured wool.

Gary Jennings, superintendent of the North American National

Southdown Show, said that the market for Southdowns, bred mainly for their meat, is doing fairly well.

"The sheep economy overall is not very good this year," Jennings said. "But we've had a good year in comparison to other breeds."

The North American International Livestock Exposition is the last Southdown show of the year, and attracts state fair champions from across the United States.

"You ask any sheep breeder anywhere," said Jennings. "To win Louisville is to win the big show."

John Mrozinski, judge of the

Southdown show, confirmed that this was the toughest competition in the country and believes it helps breeders a great deal from an economic standpoint. "People like the prestige of winning a national show like this," Mrozinski said. "Louisville gives people a chance to show offspring and sell animals for a better price than the standard market value."

Mrozinski said he judged Southdowns based on their body conformation in relation to their length of top, levelness of rump, amount of muscle, natural thickness, breed character and structural correctness.

"A lot of style and a sharp looking animal is also important," said Mrozinski.

The Shropshire Show was also a very competitive event, featuring 94 sheep in 16 classes. Breeders from throughout the country competed for \$3,215 in premiums.

Shropshire is a large, hornless, black-faced breed of sheep raised for meat and wool.

In comparison to Southdowns, Shropshires have larger body conformation, wool on the top of their heads, wool along their eyes, and should have a brownish-black color along their heads.

Brett Wittford, a worker for

Michael Anderson's Shropshire exhibition, stressed the importance of performing well in competitions such as the North American International Livestock Exposition.

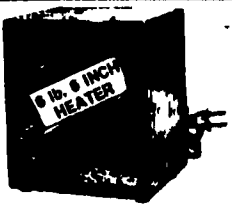
"The better we do at this show the more private sales we obtain at our farm," said Wittford.

Ron Guenther, judge of the Shropshire show, said he was looking for Shropshires with good feeding legs, soundness, style, balance, and breeding standards. When asked to describe the level of competition among Shropshires at this event, Guenther said, "We're at the North American. It's only the best."

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Extension Seeks Nominations

WARREN (Warren Co.) — Warren County Cooperative Extension is currently seeking nominations for its Volunteer of Distinctions awards.

According to Frank Callan, executive board president, the Volunteer of Distinction awards are presented annually to individuals who make substantial contributions of time and energy to the educational mission of cooperative extension. "This volunteer work may be in the areas of program leadership or in technical subject matter support for the educational programs of cooperative extension," said Callan.

Nomination of individuals to be considered for the awards can be made by any citizen of Warren County, and organizations or groups of individuals may also be nominated.

The awards are based largely upon activity and contributions made by the nominee in the

current calendar year and are not given to volunteers solely on the basis of their involvement in the 4-H program. The 4-H Development Council's existing award program recognizes such individuals with their "4-H Role of Distinction."

Nominations for these awards are to be made in writing and submitted to The Warren County Cooperative Extension, 207 W. 5th Ave, Warren PA 16365, ATTN: Volunteer of Distinction Award Committee. Nominations should briefly outline the nominee's qualifications for the award.

The due date for this year's nominations is Dec. 31. For more information concerning these awards and a list of guidelines for the selection of recipients, contact the cooperative extension office at (814) 723-6003.



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