

Market Wethers Compete In Large Sheep Show

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The "best of the best" junior market wethers competed at the North American International Livestock Exposition, home of the largest sheep show in the world.

"This year we have 600 market lambs competing in 36 classes," said superintendent Ron Craig. "We're up 200 head, compared to last year's market show."

Competitors from ages 6 to 21 came from 25 states to exhibit their market lambs here. Participant numbers have grown every year, and this year marks another new record.

Divided into classes by weight, lambs are judged on ewe appeal, length, correctness in conditioning and muscling, and an adequate skeleton — all characteristics which affect the final meat product.

"I look for a combination of traits in market lambs, not just one," explained judge Bob Kimm of Waterloo, Iowa. "I want something that'll come in a stylish package with better wholesale cuts. I judge more by structure correctness than muscling."

Lamb producers are breeding for heavier muscled lambs with long, deep loin and hindsaddle to keep off excess fat and produce better meat cuts for consumers to buy, according to Kimm.

Each class winner returned to the ring to compete for the grand

champion and reserve grand champion market lamb. For the third year in a row, Brian Johnson of Gotebo, Okla., took home the grand champion market wether crown. The reserve champion was exhibited by Angela Banbury of Danville, Ohio.

Next year, market wethers at the North American will be classified

by breed, and each breed class broken down by weight. Then, the top two winners from each breed will compete for the grand champion and reserve market lamb titles.

"We expect another increase in competitors next year for the market lamb show," Craig said. "Minor breeds find it too hard to

compete against larger framed lambs in each class. But with the same breeds competing against one another in class, they'll at least have a shot."

Show ring bystanders included parents, competitors, and sheep producers from across the United States. Nick Wieringa of Middle-

ville, Mich., came to the North American just to see the Junior Market Wether Show.

"This is the best sheep show around," Wieringa said. "You see the best quality lambs and best breeding stock here. You also get to see what the public wants in a market lamb now."

Farmers, Environment Conference Set

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Recognizing that agriculture and the environmental movement need to work together, the Cooperative Extension Service of the Maryland Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources has scheduled its second annual conference aimed at achieving this goal. MIANR is a research and public service institution of the University of Maryland System.

The all-day conference is set for January 23 in the Holiday Inn at Annapolis. Its format will illustrate some of the concepts of "Profitable Agriculture and a Clean Environment," the Maryland Extension education program known by the acronym PACE, which was announced last February 28 in Timonium during the first farm-oriented environmental conference for the Chesapeake Bay area.

Delaware farmers also are invited to participate, and the University of Delaware's Cooperative Extension Service has agreed to help sponsor the upcoming conference.

Last Friday's first-ever conference emphasized the general concepts of sustainable agriculture. The upcoming January event will

highlight on-farm adaptive research, according to James C. Hanson, the conference coordinator. Dr. Hanson is southern Maryland regional farm management specialist for the Cooperative Extension Service.

He reports that national and state leaders in environmental agriculture have been invited to present general overviews at the morning session of the Jan. 23

conference.

Delmarva area farmers, along with extension agents and specialists, will report during afternoon breakout sessions on PACE research and demonstration projects conducted during the past summer.

Subject areas will include field crops, ornamental horticulture, fruits and vegetables, poultry waste management, and water

quality on a commercial agriculture scale.

Registration forms and program brochures will be available soon from offices of the Cooperative Extension Service throughout Maryland and Delaware. A \$20 registration fee includes printed materials, coffee breaks and lunch. Program sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Advance registration is requested.

Lawn Tractor Cuts Wide Swath

MOLINE, Ill. — The John Deere LX188 lawn tractor has the power to increase productivity. A 17-hp V-twin, liquid cooled engine provides ample power for a 48-inch mower deck.

"We've received a great many requests for this combination of engine and mowing width," said Gary Lindquist, marketing division manager for John Deere.

"Customers want the time-saving benefits achieved by matching our 17-hp K-Series liquid cooled engine with a wide 48-inch mower deck."

Liquid cooling reduces noise levels, increases fuel efficiency, and prolongs engine life. The V-twin design provides superior starting and smooth running.

The mower deck cuts a 48-inch

swath with three blades. Its deep-deck design creates a strong air flow to make grass stand up for a uniform cut.

Other features include a two-pedal foot controlled hydrostatic transmission, "safety-stop" mower deck, sector and pinion steering, 20-inch turning radius, and 15-inch front and 20-inch rear tires.

Polled Hereford National

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The American Polled Hereford Association held their 69th National Show at the North American International Livestock Exposition with more than 400 cattle entered.

"The market goes in cycles, and I expect it to stay up for a year or so," Hough said. "Purebred prices usually follow the commercial market fairly well."

Three judges evaluated bulls at the show on Thursday, based on objective data and their opinions. Each judge was given a data sheet which listed the bulls' age, weight, ribeye size, frame size, and conditioning scores.

Before the champion bull was chosen, Jennifer Dee Dorrell of Bendena, Kansas, was crowned 1992 American Polled Hereford Queen. This is the first year the queen has been crowned during the bull show.

Champion Polled Hereford bull was exhibited by Ace Land & Cattle Co. of Skiatook, Okla.; Maple Rock Farm, Pittsford, Vt.; Thud Ridge Farms, Wrightstown, N.J.; and KDW Cattle Co., Gardiner, Maine. Four Winds Farm, Berlin, Conn. and Overlook Farm, Petersborough, N.H. owned the reserve champion bull.

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