

Penn State Livestock Team

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one week earlier at the Eastern National where the team was first in beef cattle, sheep and oral reasons, and third in swine, at the Keystone, Penn State finished fourth in beef cattle, third in sheep and oral reasons, and was finally high team in swine judging.

Once again in the individual species categories, Penn State team members were consistent and garnered several noteworthy individual achievements. In beef cattle judging, Donnie Sheiss finished third and Kelley Shearer placed ninth. In sheep judging, Annette finished as third high individual after accumulating 245 out of 250 points and Mark Lewis placed 10th. Donnie Sheiss and Donna MacCauley finished 14th and 16th in sheep, respectively. Donnie Sheiss was high individual in the contest in swine, and Kelley Shearer and Mark Lewis finished eighth and 10th, respectively. In oral reasons, Donnie Sheiss was again high individual with 370 out of 400 points, and Kelley Shearer garnered seventh with 346 out of 400 points.

As individuals in the entire contest, Donnie Sheiss won the contest by scoring 933 points out of 1,000 possible. This was the third

consecutive contest where Donnie had been high individual overall, high individual in oral reasons, as well as high individual in swine judging. Furthermore, he finished in the top three individuals in beef cattle judging in all three contests. Additionally, this was the third consecutive contest in which Kelley Shearer had finished in the top 10 in oral reasons. Furthermore, Annette Lovell and Kelley Shearer finished ninth and 10th, respectively.

American Royal Difficult For Penn State

A total of 25 teams and 125 contestants competed at the American Royal Livestock Judging Contest held November 9, in Kansas City, Missouri. Following five weeks of practice without competing in a contest, and pre-contest workouts at Glenkirk Farms (Hereford and Polled Hereford cattle) in Maysville, Mo., and at Burke and Farao Farms (Suffolk and Hampshire sheep) in Platte City, Mo. The team was anxious to compete against the finest from the Midwest.

The team finished 15th in sheep, 17th in swine, 16th in beef cattle and 18th overall. One of the brighter highlights of the trip was that Annette Lovell represented

Pennsylvania in the National Suffolk Queen Contest and did an outstanding job by finishing as first runner-up making her the National Suffolk Princess.

North American Challenging For Penn State

After returning from the American Royal, the Penn State team had just enough time to regroup, wash laundry, and get caught up on class work before departing for the National Contest in Louisville, Ky. Precontest practices included judging Simmental cattle at Harvest Plantation Farm in Franklin, Pa., and Angus cattle at McKean

Brothers in Mercer, Pa. Once in Ohio, the team practiced judging beef cattle, sheep and swine at the Ohio State University and swine judging at Shipley's Durocs and Large Whites in Newark, Ohio. The final practice sessions of the season included judging beef cattle, sheep and swine at the University of Kentucky.

Thirty-seven teams and 183 contestants from across the country competed in the National Contest on November 18 held in conjunction with the North American

International Livestock Exposition. The team performed admirably and finished 15th in sheep, 16th in beef cattle and 17th in swine, while finishing 19th overall. Donnie Sheiss and Kelley Shearer led the team with scores above 900 out of 1,000 possible points. Kelley tied for 10th high individual honors in swine judging. Donnie finished 11th in sheep judging, ninth in beef cattle judging and fourth in the overall contest.

Junior Steer Show More Than Business

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — From South Dakota to Louisiana, New Mexico to Tennessee, juniors from 14 states exhibited their steers at the North American International Junior Steer Show.

Two Indiana competitors came away with top honors. Brett Gibson of Clarks Hill owned grand champion junior steer, and Lori Barker of Kendallville exhibited reserve grand champion junior steer.

But traveling to premier junior steer shows is more than just a business expense for exhibitors. It's a family vacation in a learning environment.

"You have a lot of family activity and vacation time, not just another cattle show," said judge Dick Jurgens of Peoria, Ill. "The family shares a measure of accomplishment from the home, because the fruits of production come to an end here."

"My family has been showing steers for a long time, and I'm carrying on that tradition," said 17-year-old exhibitor Tammy Emehiser from Adel, Iowa. "I wouldn't be here without help from my family."

Each individual experiences competition, develops winning spirit, and builds self-confidence.

Competitors also have opportunities to see how others do things.

"I like competing at the shows," Emehiser said. "You meet new people and see different places."

But steer shows and cattle shows in general aren't all fun and games for juniors aged 6 to 21 years old. Exhibitors take the responsibility of caring for their own animal projects.

"You learn a lot taking care of steers," Emehiser said. "They come first, and you have to learn how to manage your time around them."

The Sneed family of Ewing, Ill., has continuously exhibited junior steers for the past 30 years. They return to the North American because it rewards exhibitors and the beef industry.

"My children learn how to work hard and get rewarded for it here at the show," said Dennis Sneed. "It teaches responsibility and that a person needs to work in order to achieve success."

"This show is a combination of sport enjoyment, just like basketball or baseball, and benefits the beef industry at the same time," Sneed said.

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