Mary Ann and Richard Johnson show the champion Columbia ewe and ram.

Benjamin and Coulter Passwatters shows the grand champion Oxford ram.

Sarah and Tim Fleener show the Hampshire grand champion ram.

KILE Sheep Competitions Offer Visibility, Diversity

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — More than 1,250 sheep were entered for competition in the hopes of earning cash premiums and leather banners during the 36th Keystone International Livestock Exposition this week.

A number of the region's young and veteran exhibitors faired well during the shows.

Hope's Hampshire from Knoxville, Md., exhibited the grand champion Hampshire ewe in the open breeding sheep show during the Keystone International Livestock Exposition (KILE), held earlier this week.

"Hope 91-07," a yearling ewe, bested 30 other ewes to win the distinction. Earlier in the day she won her class for one-year-olds.

Hope Hampshires, owned and operated by Betty and Marvin Hope, have been exhibiting at KILE since 1979 and have done quite well through the years. They now have about 30 ewes and maintain a commercial beef cattle operation.

Thirteen-year-old Matt Nesselrodt of Franklin, W.Va., exhibited the champion ram in the junior Suffolk show.

His January lamb, "South Branch Suffolks 207A," has an impressive record. He was supreme champion in the Tri-County Fair in Petersburg, W.Va., champion in the junior show at the West Virginia State Fair, and champion in the open Suffolk show at the Virginia State Fair.

Matt's family, owners of South Branch Suffolks, keep about 25-30 breeding sheep and hold over yearlings for next year's shows and sales. Matt, whose has been a member of the Pendleton Pioneers 4-H Club for five years, owns about half of the flock.

G L Powell 46 was named grand champion Shropshire female. Shown by Geoff Powell of Rome, G L Powell was also reserve champion in the junior show.

Powell, 15, has been showing in 4-H and open classes since 1986.

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Amy Clair shows the grand champion Suffolk ewe.

Kendrick and Kathy Smith show the grand champion Merino ram.

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