

Rocky Acres Farm Becomes Swine Market Champion At Allentown

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
ALLENTOWN (Lehigh Co.)— It was a championship 22 years in the making, but Rocky Acres, which includes sons Stephen, Tim, and mother and father Harlan and Barbara, finally clinched a market swine championship at the Allentown Fair on Wednesday.

In 60-head-of-hogs competition, it was a 260-pound Yorkshire cross gilt from the heavyweight class that won out over all the other weight divisions during the market championship portion of the show.

"We didn't expect this at all," said Tim Wessner, of Rocky Acres, based in New Tripoli. "This is the first time we got the market banner at Allentown."

The family has been showing at the fair since 1971, according to Harlan. Rocky Acres maintains at least 80 sows in a farrowing operation, divided up mostly between Landrace and Poland China breeds.

According to Tim, it was brother Stephen, 18, a county 4-H member, who needed another project hog for a Northwestern FFA project. Stephen picked the Yorkshire, which the judge liked for its leanness, despite its weight.

The hog looked very sound, very meaty, very good from the top down, according to show judge Charles Hall, of Rattlesnake Mountain Farms based in Julian, Centre County. The Yorkshire Co-Op president, who also raises Hampshires, indicated to the exhibitors that he didn't want to pick one nearing 260 pounds, but "if that's the pig, that's the pig," he said. "If it's the leanest, I'll go with that."

For the supreme champion showman Amy Wehr, the key to winning was to use a combination of baby oil and water to keep the hog clean and shining for the show. She won against tough senior competition, the largest class on Wednesday.

In the end, Amy also swept championship showman and fitter with her purebred Hampshire out of the intermediate class. Amy, 13, Orefield, is the daughter of Elmer and Dolores Wehr. This is Amy's first show championship. She's been showing at the fair for six years.

FFA champion showman was Richard Kerper, 18, son of Richard and Kay Kerper, Fleetwood. This is the first time he has shown hogs at the Allentown Fair. He is a member of the Oley Valley FFA.

The breed champion show was held Thursday. Supreme champion gilt was awarded to Laura Lazarus for her Yorkshire. Supreme champion boar was awarded to Scott Lazarus with his Chester White.

At the show, there were a total of 60 market hogs (296 overall, including the breed show Thursday), and 31 exhibitors.

Following is a list of show placings.

ALLENTOWN FAIR SWINE SHOW RESULTS

SHOWMANSHIP AND FITTING

Seniors (15 and Over): 1. Grant Lazarus. 2. Ben Lazarus. 3. Tracy Lazarus. **Intermediate (12-14 Yrs. Old):** 1. Amy Wehr. 2. Kelly Lazarus. 3. Jeremy Wisser. **Juniors (11 and Under):** 1. J.C. Strawbridge. 2. Elizabeth Wisser. **First Year:** 1. Rachel Hellman. 2. Justin Wisser. 3. Julie Bond.

FFA FITTING

In-School: 1. Leon Hunter. 2. Jen Rabenold. 3. Richard Kerper. **Champion:** Leon Hunter. **Reserve:** Jen Rabenold.

FFA SHOWMANSHIP
In-School: 1. Richard Kerper. 2. Jen Rabenold. 3. Stephen Wessner. **Champion:** Richard Kerper.

GRAND CHAMPION
 Amy Wehr
RESERVE
 Grant Lazarus

SHOWMANSHIP
4-H Seniors (15 and Over): 1. Laura Lazarus. 2. Richard Kerper. 3. Jen Rabenold. **Intermediate (12-14 Yrs. Old):** 1. Amy Wehr. 2. Kelly Lazarus. 3. Jeremy Wisser. **Juniors (11 and Under):** 1. Elizabeth Wisser. 2. J.C. Strawbridge. **First Year:** 1. Justin Wisser. 2. Julie Bond. 3. Rachel Hellman.

GRAND CHAMPION
 Amy Wehr
RESERVE
 Laura Lazarus

MARKET HOGS OPEN SHOW

Lightweight Class 1: 1. Jenny Rabenold. 2. Leon Hunter. 3. Leon Hunter. **Class 2:** 1. Jenny Rabenold. 2. April Lazarus. 3. Leon Hunter. **Class 3:** 1. Jenny Rabenold. 2. Richard Kerper. 3. Lynn Lazarus. **Class 4:** 1. Todd Bennecoff. 2. Richard Kerper. 3. April Lazarus. **Champion:** Jenny Rabenold. **Medium Weight:** **Class 1:** 1. Calvin Lazarus. 2. Lynn Lazarus. 3. Bruce Snyder. **Class 2:** 1. Kelly Lazarus. 2. Julie Bond. 3. Julie Bond. **Class 3:** 1. Benjamin Lazarus. 2. Calvin Lazarus. 3. Laura Lazarus. **Class 4:** 1. Amy Wehr. 2. Bruce Snyder. 3. Jeremy Wisser. **Champion:** Benjamin Lazarus. **Heavyweight:** **Class 1:** 1. Tim Wessner. 2. Jenny Rabenold. 3. Laura Lazarus. **Class 2:** 1. Tim Wessner. 2. Amy Wehr. 3. Tim Wessner. **Champion:** Tim Wessner.

SUPREME CHAMPION MARKET HOG

Tim Wessner
CHAMPION 4-H MARKET HOG
 Amy Wehr
RESERVE
 Ben Lazarus
CHAMPION FFA MARKET HOG
 Bruce Snyder
RESERVE
 Bruce Snyder

PEN OF 3

Lightweight: **Class 1:** 1. Jenny Rabenold. 2. Leon Hunter. 3. Leon Hunter. **Class 2:** 1. Jenny Rabenold. 2. Richard Kerper. 3. April Lazarus. **Medium Weight:** **Class 1:** 1. Todd Bennecoff. 2. Calvin Lazarus. 3. Lynn Lazarus. **Class 2:** 1. Julie Bond. 2. Jeremy Wisser. 3. Bruce Snyder.



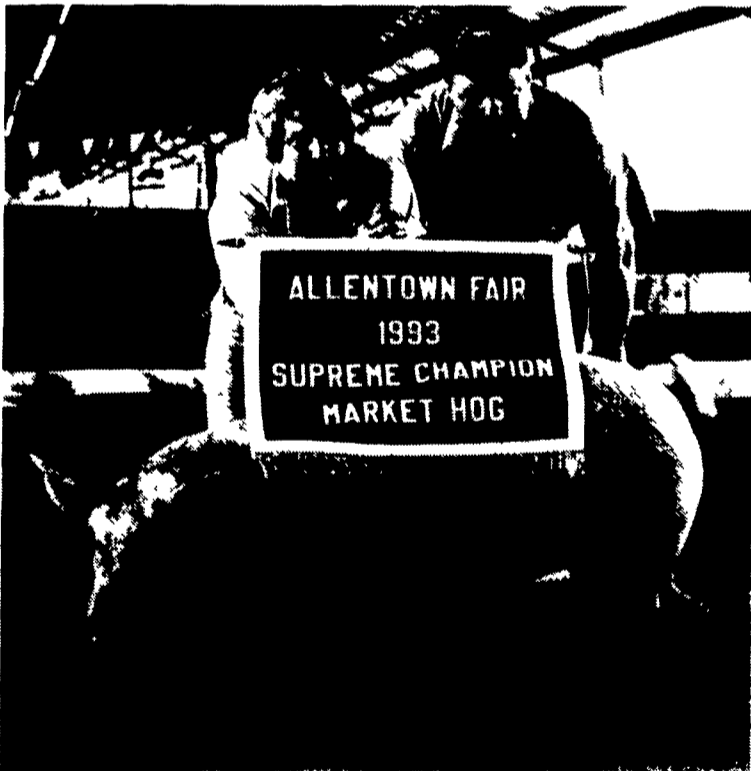
Richard Kerper won champion FFA showmanship at Allentown Fair.

Heavyweight: **Class 1:** 1. Benjamin Lazarus. 2. Laura Lazarus. 3. Elizabeth Wisser. **Class 2:** 1. Tim Wessner. 2. Amy Wehr. 3. Tim Wessner.

4-H CHAMPION
 Julie Bond

RESERVE
 Calvin Lazarus
FFA CHAMPION
 Jenny Rabenold
RESERVE
 Bruce Snyder

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Tim Wessner, left, of Rocky Acres Farm, won supreme champion market hog at the Allentown Fair on Wednesday. At right is show judge Charles Hall.



Amy Wehr, 13, Orefield, won supreme champion showman on Wednesday morning at the Allentown Fair behind this purebred Hampshire.

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