

Fashionable Shepherds

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sweater that Kelly wore. The yarn was purchased from Ireland and was knit in an intricate scene of purple, green, and blue shades. Kelly was no newcomer. Last year she placed fourth in KILE competition and the year before that, first. For some contestants, the hours

of primping and practicing came to an abrupt demise when the ewes refused to cooperate with the shepherd. But for Rebecca Mitchell, judges could not dismiss the stunning picture the 12-year-old and her Scottish black-face ewe made even though the ewe was unwieldy. The silky long-hair of the Fin-

cross sheep was the most unusual entry. Rebecca, herself, modeled a two-piece outfit that she wove from multi-colored wool that she had dyed and spun. Rebecca placed second in the junior division.

For the second year in a row, 10-year-old Katie McKissick of New Castle placed third in junior

competition. The daughter of Brenda and Jeff, the McKissicks raise about 25 Suffolks. Katie matched her black and white checkered outfit with a matching bow for her ewe Jenny.

Purpose of leadline
About 30 contestants from nine to 19 years old entered the annual contest. The purpose of the Lead Line is to show the best of the sheep industry's yearling ewes and the classy fashions that can be made from the fleeces.

Several of the contestants modeled outfits that they had either sewed, knitted, or woven from wool. Contestants were not required to make their own outfits, but the clothing did need to be made from at least 80 percent wool. For a coordinated look, the shepherd usually accessorized her sheep with a matching beret or scarf.

The competition was broken into three divisions: junior, intermediate, and senior. Forty percent of the score was attributed to the contestant and her outfit; 25 percent to control and presentation; and 35 percent to the appearance of the ewe. Contestants met with judges individually before modeling in the show ring.

Breeds represented included Shropshire, Corriedale, Southdown, Suffolk, Hampshire, Oxford, Montadale, Dorset, Tunis, and a Scottish Black Face Ewe.



Joan Miller, right, chairperson for the KILE Lead Line consults with the judges while contestants are judged for poise and appearance.



Sheep and shepherds are classy examples of today's sheep and wool fashion design.

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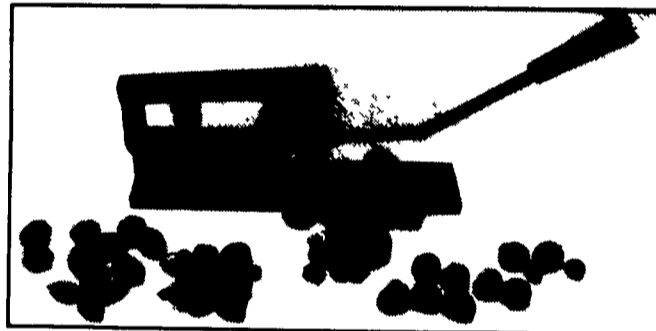
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