

9-Year-Old Exhibitor Wins Supreme Market Lamb At Farm Show

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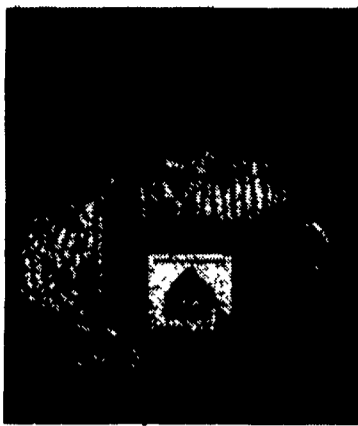
— While a crowd gathered at the podium and the champions stepped up to get their picture taken, Chelsea Viti reached over and gave "Curly," her supreme champion market lamb, a hug and a kiss.

Chelsea, 9, in the third grade at South Side Beaver School, showed her 132-pound Hampshire-Suffolk spring ewe lamb to the championship on Wednesday afternoon at the Farm Show.

Chelsea is the daughter of Don and Linda Viti, Hookstown, Beaver County.

Meanwhile, Benjamin Bow held to his 138-pound heavy-weight reserve champion, a Suffolk ewe that became reserve supreme at the market lamb championship. Ben, 16, the son of

Ben and Mary Bow, Locust Ridge Farm, is a 10th grader at Annville Cleona. He is an eight-year mem-



Brandy Horning, 15, daughter of Bruce and Phyllis Horning, Huntingdon, won the champion carcass on-rail competition at the Farm Show.

ber of Lebanon County 4-H.

The champion is a "combination of what our industry needs," said Budd Martin, Williard, Ohio, show judge. The lamb "had a tremendous amount of youthfulness and muscle," he said. He said the champion has what is important, placing "a lot of emphasis on dimension in the top."

Martin raises purebred Cheviots and Dorsets and wether ewes.

Brandy Horning, 15, daughter of Bruce and Phyllis Horning, Huntingdon, won the champion carcass on-rail show. Brandy has exhibited at the Huntingdon County Fair and KILE, in addition to the Blair County Fair.

In all, there were a total of 168 exhibitors. Following is a list of show placings.

FARM SHOW JUNIOR MARKET LAMBS

BREEDS

Cheviot: 1. Jacob Ebersole. 2. LeAn Graham. 3. Tabitha Ebersole. Corriedale: 1. Tom Bowser. 2. Nicole Knapp. 3. Michael Bowman. Dorset Lightweight: 1. Gina Shelton. 2. Stephanie Bowman. 3. Jennifer A. Wenger. Dorset Lamb Heavy: 1. Lori Tyson. 2. Denck Bollinger. 3. Molly Blackburn. Champion Dorset: Lori Tyson. Reserve: Gina Shelton. Hampshire: 1. Tara Viti. 2. Darren Fidler. 3. Dave Olson. Shropshire: 1. Jeremy Dorman. 2. Kristy L. Blystone. 3. Peggy Myers. Southdown Lamb Light: 1. Matt Trostle. 2. Jim S. Harris. 3. Drew Bankert. Southdown Lamb Heavy: 1. Adam Sellers. 2. Laura Kwisnek. 3. Lisa Kwisnek. Champion Southdown: Adam Sellers. Reserve: Laura Kwisnek. Suffolk Light: 1. Julie Kern. 2. Travis Donough. 3. Hannah M. Auman. Suffolk Lamb Heavy: 1. Jason Kuzemchak. 2. Doug Reinert. 3. Joe Tice. Suffolk Champion: Jason Kuzemchak. Reserve: Julie Kern. Montadale: 1. Matthew Christ. 2. Tony Ebling. 3. Tim J. Blystone. Other Purebred: 1. JR Fidler. 2. Emily Bankert.

CROSSBRED LIGHTWEIGHT

Division 1 (80-101 lbs.): 1. Leann Russell. 2. Jeff Bollinger. 3. Mindy Albright. Division 2 (102-113 lbs.): 1. Doug Daniels. 2. Melissa Nator. 3. Tim Miller. Division 3 (114-118 lbs.): 1. Lisa Reiff. 2. Joshua Daniels. 3. Callie Chapman.

CHAMPION LIGHTWEIGHT

Lisa Reiff

RESERVE

Doug Daniels

MIDDLEWEIGHT

Division 4 (119-122 lbs.): 1. Mike Olson. 2. Andy Blackburn. 3. Dawn Gahagan. Division 5 (123-124 lbs.): 1. Jeremy Dobbins. 2. Lee Kuzemchak. 3. Gregory S. McMurtrie. Division 6 (125-126 lbs.): 1. Lyndon Reiff. 2. Bill Miller. 3. Craig Berkheimer.

CHAMPION MIDDLEWEIGHT

Lyndon Reiff
RESERVE
Jeremy Dobbins

HEAVYWEIGHT

Division 7 (127-129 lbs.): 1. Jodie Chapman. 2. Emmett McMillen. 3. Bruce Snyder. Division 8 (130-132 lbs.): 1. Chelsea Viti. 2. Joe Kuzemchak. 3. Dana Phillips. Division 9 (133-140 lbs.): 1. Benjamin Bow. 2. Bree Taggart. 3. Taryn Rockwell.

CHAMPION HEAVYWEIGHT

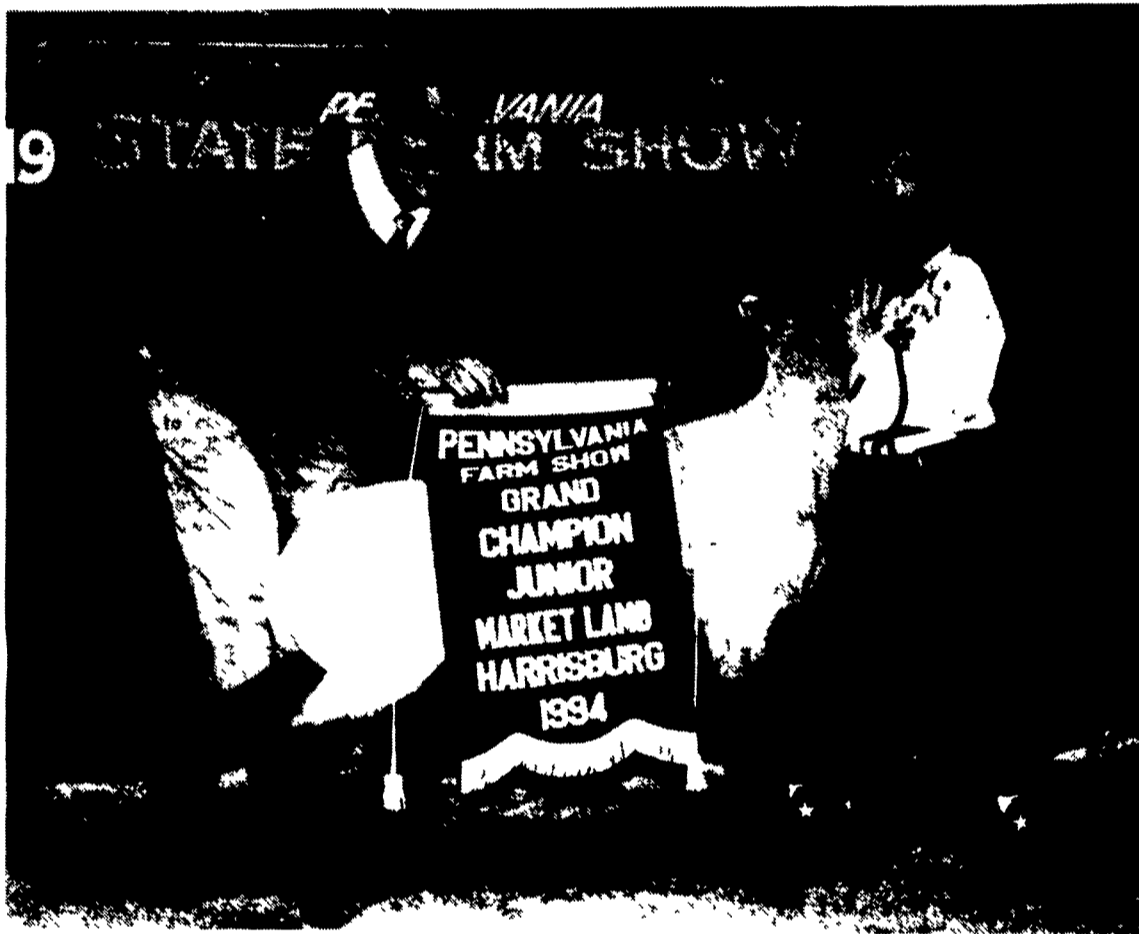
Chelsea Viti
RESERVE
Benjamin Bow

CROSSBRED CHAMPION

Chelsea Viti
RESERVE
Benjamin Bow

SUPREME CHAMPION

MARKET LAMB
Chelsea Viti
RESERVE
Benjamin Bow



Chelsea Viti, right, shows "Curly," her 132-pound Hampshire-Suffolk lamb to a supreme championship during the junior market lamb competition at the Farm Show. At left is Tony Wagner, deputy ag secretary. Photo by Andy Andrews



Benjamin Bow, right, shows his 138-pound Suffolk to reserve champion market lamb on Wednesday at the junior market lamb competition. With him is Tony Wagner, deputy ag secretary. Photo by Andy Andrews

Company Pulls Mite Remedy, Beekeepers May Suffer

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Pennsylvania's beekeepers are preparing nervously for winter, hoping that their colonies survive the cold better than they did last year.

As the temperatures drop and leaves fall, there's good news and bad news for the state's honey bees, according to a Penn State bee expert.

"The good news is that honey supplies are better now than last fall, meaning most colonies should have adequate food for the winter," said Maryann Frazier, entomology extension associate in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "The bad news is that parasitic mites still are a serious threat to honey bee colonies."

Bees are especially susceptible to deadly varroa and tracheal mites when under stress from low food supplies and cold weather. Last winter, when a poor fall nectar flow reduced honey stores and frigid weather lasted well into March, bee mortality reached 50 percent or more statewide. Some beekeepers were nearly wiped out. The resulting bee shortage left many fruit and vegetable growers scrambling to find enough colonies to pollinate their crops this spring.

The battle against mites this winter is complicated by the loss of a potentially effective chemical treatment. The manufacturer of Miticur has removed the chemical from the market and plans to cancel its registration, making it illegal to use after Jan. 1.

"Research at Penn State and elsewhere suggests that responsible use of the chemical amitraz in the form of Miticur is highly effective in controlling varroa and tracheal mites," Frazier said. "It's unfortunate that beekeepers will lose that treatment option."

With the withdrawal of Miticur, menthol is the only chemical treatment available for control of tracheal mites, and fluvalinate, in the form of Apistan Strips, is the only approved chemical for treatment of varroa mites.

With chemical treatments few and mite resistance to miticides a growing problem, beekeepers increasingly are considering alternative control strategies. One

option that shows promise is "extender patties."

These are made from vegetable shortening and granulated sugar, and are provided to bees as food throughout the spring and summer. After honey intended for human consumption is removed from the hive in the fall, an antibiotic is added to the patties.

"It's possible that when mites feed, they transmit pathogens that can weaken or kill the host bee," says Frazier. "The antibiotic may help the bees combat infection."

Since older field bees tend to have many mites in their trachea at this time of year, another effective strategy, suggested by Ohio State researchers, is to "lose" a colony's field force in late fall.

This can be done by moving a colony or apiary up to two miles away from its original site. When the field bees return to the original site and have no colony to enter, they will die within a few days. "By eliminating the field force, a significant portion of the mites also can be eliminated," Frazier said.

A third option some beekeepers are adopting is to do nothing and let nature take its course.

"This may result in the loss of many or even most colonies in an operation," Frazier said. "But those that survive probably have some mite resistance. Surviving colonies then can be split in the spring and used as breeder colonies to rear queens."

"The presence of two different mites complicates this strategy and beekeepers using this method may suffer losses for many years before realizing success," she said. "But the advantage is clear — pesticide-free beekeeping."

