

Corby Zeigler's Lamb Takes Overall Championship At Manheim

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MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — After almost five hours of sheep competition, the final round was a showdown between Travis Donough's grand champion non-selling market lamb and Corby Zeigler's grand champion selling market lamb.

"These are two of the finest sheep you will find in competition anywhere," said Chris Herr, judge for the event held at the Manheim Farm Show on Thursday evening.

In the end, Herr pointed to Zeigler's champion heavy weight as the supreme champion overall and said, "It stands up top anywhere in the state. It's finished correctly."

The audience broke into applause but cheering the loudest was Corby's 11-year-old brother Brandon, who had achieved the same title last year.

"I'm really happy for him. I don't care that he beat me at all," Brandon said of his younger brother's feat.

The two brothers are almost newcomers to the sheep scene, with Corby debuting last year at Manheim. The boys are the sons of Dean and Carole Zeigler of Lititz. They purchased the sheep from Jerry Skidgel of Oklahoma.

Corby said that although he sometimes called the champion lamb Bubba, he really didn't have a name.

"We found they grew too attached when we named them," his dad said.

Travis Donough, 14, is certainly no newcomer to the sheep circuit. He has clinched top titles in fairs across the county for years. Not only did he win the grand champion market lamb title and numerous other firsts in classes but also showed the grand champion steer and the reserve champion hog at the Manheim Farm Show.

This year's champion Suffolk Scarlett is a full sister to the reserve champions shown at Manheim in the past two years.

Travis's continual achieve-

ments in sheep competition is made a bit sweeter by the fact that all his sheep are home bred. Sheep breeders hold smug pride that is well deserved when they are able to take top titles when competing against sheep purchased from out-of-state breeders.

Travis and his brother Ryan, who showed the champion heavy weight and the champion reserve non-selling champ, are the sons of Ed and LaRue Donough. They have 20 ewes on their Manheim farm that they use for breeding purposes. The sheep are conditioned by running through hurdles and walking a mile a day.

In the breeding sheep division, Peter Hoffines accomplished his goal — to win the overall champion breeding sheep title. In his last year of showing, the 19-year-old achieved the trophy by showing a Southdown ewe. Judge Herr described the Southdown as very long and thick over the top with tremendous loins.

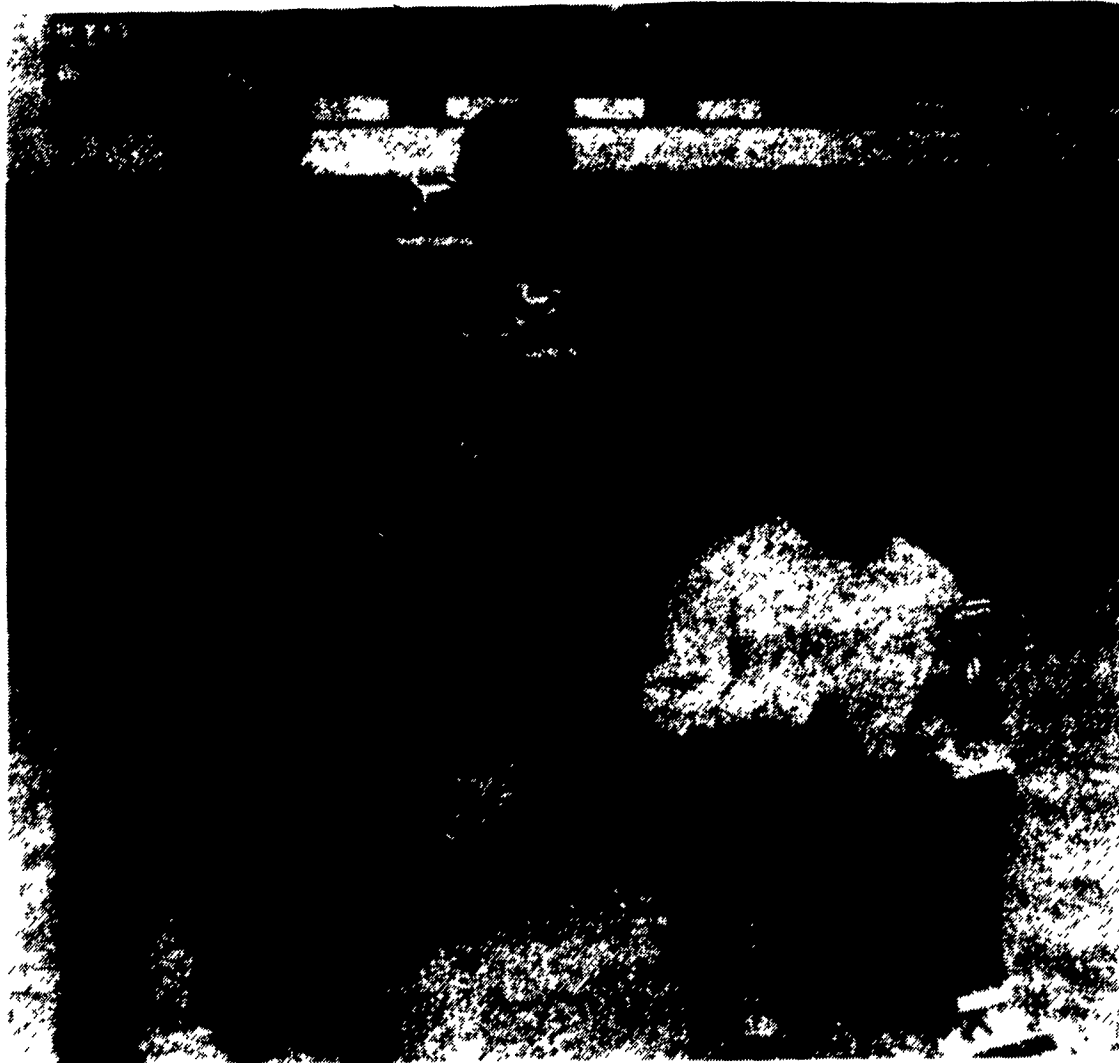
Hoffines, the son of Robert and Linda Hoffines, raises about 20 Southdown and Hamps on the family's Marietta farm. Two younger sisters, Amy and Jill, will take up their brother's duties in the sheep showing circuit.

In showmanship competition, Jason Stoltzfus placed first in the senior division, Regina Landis, in the 12- to 14-year-old division, and Radell Peters, in the 8- to 11-year-old division.

All three have achieved showmanship honors in other shows around the county.

- Showmanship**
 Age 16 and over: 1 Jason Stoltzfus; 2 Gerald Boyd; 3 Peter Hoffines.
 Age 12-14: 1 Regina Landis, 2 Jessica Schmidt; 3 Jessica Stoltzfus
 Age 11 and under: 1 Radell Peters; 2 Jason Rohrer; 3 Laura Newcomer
- Breeding Sheep**
Cheviot
 Lamb: Keith Bollinger
 Yearling: Keith Bollinger
 Champion Cheviot: Keith Bollinger
- Dorset**
 Ram: 1 Jessica Schmidt; 2 Jessica Stoltzfus; 3 Radell Peters
 Lamb: 1 Jessica Stoltzfus; 2 Jessica Stoltzfus; 3 Jessica Schmidt.

(Turn to Page A36)



Corby Zeigler hugs the overall champion lamb while his brother Brandon and his dad Dean holds the trophies the two boys earned at the Manheim Sheep Show.



Travis Donough holds the champion non-selling market lamb while his family helps hold all the trophies he and his brother Ryan won in competition on Thursday night. Parents are Ed and LaRue and sister Joelynn.



In his last year of showing, Peter Hoffines captures the supreme breeding sheep title with his Southdown ewe. Judge Chris Herr of the Department of Agriculture recalled the days when he competed against many of the family members who show at Manheim. According to Herr, sheep competition is getting tougher as the sheep are improving.



Top showmanship honors go to, from left, Jason Stoltzfus, senior division; Regina Landis, intermediate; and Radell Peters, junior.