

8th Grader Now Sheep Show Veteran

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Correspondent

MECHANICSBURG (Cumberland Co.) — William "Bill" George Leib doesn't even remember his first trip to the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

But that is not surprising, since he was only a few weeks old at the time and his mother, Susie, had to carry him around in her arms.

It wasn't long beofer he was going to the Farm Show on his own two feet, however, and taking home some major prizes in the sheep competitions.

Leib, who lives with his mother and his father, Robert, on a sheep farm near Mechanicsburg, has been competing at the Farm Show since 1985, when he was only five years old.

He is 13 years old now and has seen his biggest successes at the show come in the last five years. At the top of his list of honors are the supreme champion in the wood breeds awards he has captured.

Leib, who is a 4-H member and an eighth grader at the Eagle View Middle School in the Cumberland Valley School District, has been consistent in winning those prestigious honors. He has taken them home during four of the last five Farm Shows.

His talent in breeding sheep shows in the supreme champion awards because he has won each of the awards with a different animal that he has bred and raised himself.

Even though he is only a teenager, Leib has a great deal of experience with sheep and goats. He now owns 36 Rambouillet ewes. His flock of animals also includes 11 goats, 10 of which are Nubians and one that is a La Mancha.

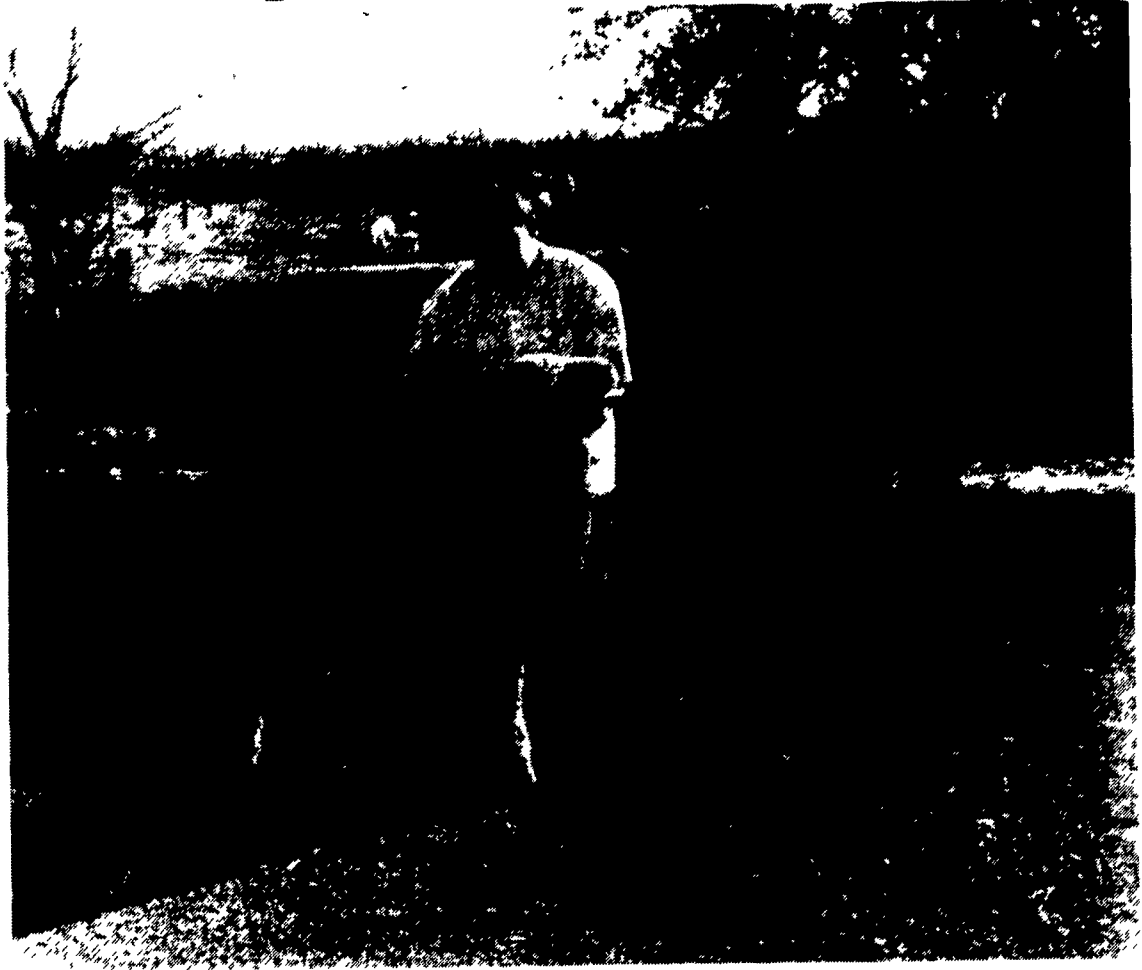
This year he plans to take 10 to 12 sheep to the Farm Show to take a shot at adding more awards to his lengthy list, Leib said.

His activities beyond the Farm Show and various other sheep competitions include selling the wool his animals produce to some hand spinners. The wool that the spinners don't buy goes to the local wool pool, he said.

Leib's success at the Farm Show and his expertise with sheep is to be expected, since agriculture is in his family's blood.

Like his son, Bob Leib also was a Cumberland County 4-H member, although he spent his 12 years in 4-H involved in the beef program. Bob Leib also showed at several Farm Shows.

Susie Leib cut her teeth in agriculture as a 4-H member in Maryland. She also has shown on and



Bill Leib stands with Dixie, one of the ewes that he will exhibit at the 1995 Farm Show competition. Dixie was the reserve champion ewe of the junior show at the North American Show held in Louisville, Ky. recently.

off at the Farm Show.

For Bill, the Farm Show is just the start each year of many busy months of work that take him to shows, and regular awards, at

sheep competitions all over the country.

The list of shows he regularly participates in is quite large.

The roster includes such well-known events as the Allentown

Fair, the Keystone Invitational Livestock Expo, the North American Sheep Show in Louisville, Ky., and the National Rambouillet Show in Dubuque, Iowa.

197 FFA'ers

(Continued from Page F14)

presstime are:

Keystone East: Eastern Lebanon County FFA: Brett M. Lentz. **Oxford:** David Clark Delp Jr.

Keystone Northcentral: Clearfield: Dan Gearhart, Jr. **Columbia Montour A.V.T.S.:** Jessica Lee Guise. **Danville:** Jason Kift and Barry Koser. **Penns Valley:** Theodore Alan Clouser. **Spud Growers:** Jeffrey Robert Brown.

Keystone Southcentral: Bellwood-Antis: Thaddeus L. White. **Conococheague:** Robert Helman. **Gifford Pinchot:** Leroy Heiner and Duane Kerstetter. **Shippensburg:** Robert Patrick Glennon.

Keystone Western: Albion: Corry G. Howard, Christopher S. Kidder, and Aaron James Lance. **Linesville:** Sean R. Zakostecky and Melissa A. Evans. **Mohawk:** Ryan Werner and Jason Scott. **Moniteau:** Diane Cockroft. **Somerset:** Travis Barron, Debra Stahl, and Jeremy Barron.

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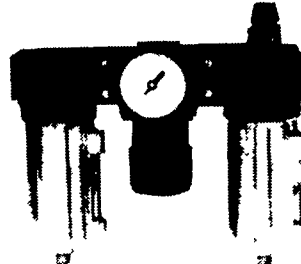
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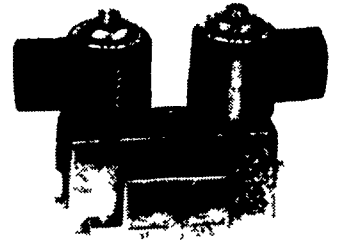
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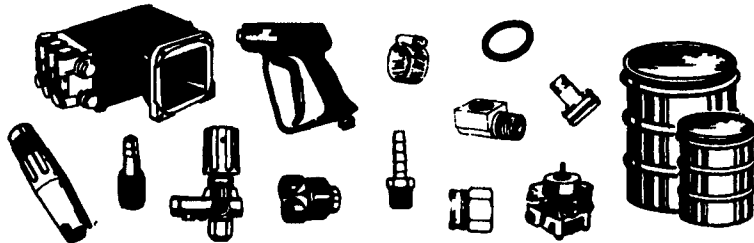
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