

Kids Korner

KILE Kids Reveal Winning Secrets

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)
 — While the animals are competing in the show ring at Keystone International Livestock Exposition (KILE) held in the Farm Show Arena in Harrisburg, kids are competing in tractor pulls, agri-kid olympics, sack races, wheelbarrow races, horseshoe pitch, hog calling, and other events.

Several participants have practiced for the competition just as thoroughly as their parents have prepared the show animals for this annual event.

"I've been practicing for a year," Ronnie Lee Ferguson after he claimed first prize in the tractor pull.

Last year, Ronnie, from Mercer County, claimed a third place in the same competition. He's convinced that pulling his brother around in a wagon in the barn is the reason for his success.

But some of the kids who won in their division attributed their success to other reasons.

Christine Benehoff of Bessamer said that she jumps on a trampoline to develop muscle for the tractor pull.

"Running is the secret," said Johnny Hochstetler of Ohio. He lives on a horse farm in Ohio and each year accompanies his mother to KILE. She operates a Western stand called "The Way West."

At home Johnny has his own

race horse. He enjoys riding, but said he wants to be an accountant when he grows up and maybe race horses on the side.

Corey Waltersdorf of Red Lion and Josh Howard of Duncannon said the secret to winning the tractor pull is to keep the wheels straight.

Corey's brother, five-year-old Chad was delighted to hear his brother's secret. He said, "I didn't know it before but now I know how to win too."

Ten-year-old Travis Forrey from Red Lion said it was his first time to compete in a tractor pull and he won first place in his division. "You must use your muscles the best you can," he said. "I developed mine on my sheep farm."

The tractor pull was sponsored by Evergreen Tractor. Agri-Olympics was sponsored by Lebanon Valley Bank.

In addition to planned competition, a petting barnyard was available throughout the day. Animals of Distinction featured dog tricks that fascinated people of all ages. Some kids like Nathan Tice and Brandon Winebark dressed in fashionable wool outfits and led their primped and lovely sheep in the lead line competition.

For some children, it was just fun to spend time with their animals. Some helped prepared them for shows, some showed them, and some walked around admiring all the livestock.



In the 10-year-old division Margaux Firestone of Lebanon listens as Travis Forrey of Red Lion tells his secret for winning the tractor pull, "Use your muscles the best you can."



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Johnny Hochstetler from Ohio sits in the driver's seat while Christine Benehoff from Bessamer and Josh Howard from Duncannon compare reasons for capturing wins in the 11-12-year-old division of the tractor pull.



These kids show off their ribbons, from left, James Tyler Yost, 4; Andy Matlock, 5; Chad Waltersdorf, 5; Corey Waltersdorf, 8; Marle Yost, 8, and Jill Matlock, 7.



Four-year-old Jackle Abell likes to help her parents care for Roxanne, an undefeated cow calf champion. Jackle is the daughter of Daniel Abell and Sharon Preston of Warren Center.



These Lancaster County friends hang together for KILE activities. Clockwise from left, Hilary Abbot, 9; Valerie Yates, 10; Heather Abbot, 12; Kate Felax, 10, and Abby Felax, 12.