

## With An Eye On NAILE, Team Prepares To Hammer Home A Championship

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Lancaster Farming Staff  
MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) —  
Livestock judging teams know  
there are "moments of truth."

For Regina Landis, it is the  
nerve-wracking silence that is  
mandatory for participants during  
the entire length of the judging  
contest.

For Lisa Reiff, it is the trial of  
enduring competition during the  
state 4-H Days, a prerequisite for  
national competition, held last  
July.

For Dale Livengood, it is the  
breed competition "scenarios"  
that test your knowledge of  
expected progeny differences  
(EPDs) and how to fit that knowl-  
edge into actual practice during  
the judging event.

For Gerald Boyd, it is judging  
beef that can really test his nerves.

All four of the Lancaster County  
4-H Livestock Judging Team  
members have to face these special  
trials during competition at the  
North American International  
Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in  
Louisville, Ky. on Tuesday, Nov.  
14.

While the team travels to Louis-  
ville, members will practice on  
selected farms enroute, brushing  
up on their judging and reasoning  
skills. Practice farms are scattered  
throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio,  
and Kentucky. The group will stop  
at Ohio State University and the  
University of Kentucky. Also, the  
team will tour Churchhill Downs,  
the Louisville Slugger Plant, and  
Thoroughbred horse farms in  
Lexington.

The contest itself consists of  
judging 10 classes of livestock  
(beef, sheep, and swine) and  
includes tests on performance  
data, oral reasons, and questions.

All of the Lancaster County  
members face even more difficult  
odds because Pennsylvania last  
won the overall contest in 1961.

The team averages 8.5 years of  
involvement in 4-H clubs. As a  
result, each has participated in a  
wide array of events, garnered  
many ribbons, and developed in a  
way that makes them contenders  
for the NAILE crown.

"I've been around pigs and I  
know what they're like," said Ger-  
ald Boyd. Gerald has exhibited  
many champion hogs in county  
fairs since joining 4-H nine years  
ago. Gerald, 17, the son of Kerry  
and Deb Boyd, Ephrata, said that  
he has shown sheep and dairy, but  
hogs are special. Gerald attends  
Ephrata High School.

For Regina Landis, sheep are

her strengths. Regina said she's  
been showing for eight years.  
Regina said that although the team  
works together to solve some  
weaknesses in their judging and  
reasoning efforts, she is still work-  
ing to improve her strengths in the  
hog judging classes.

Regina, 16, daughter of Abram  
and Dottie Landis, Manheim, a  
4-H'er for eight years, said, "I  
don't like judging swine, but it's  
not my worst area. But that's the  
thing I dread more than anything  
— the hog classes. I did show hogs  
for two years but I'd rather be deal-  
ing with sheep or beef." Regina  
attends Lancaster Mennonite High  
School.

Lisa Reiff dreads the silence the  
most. During competition,  
"there's not supposed to be any  
talking, so it's sort of hard for me  
to deal with that," she said. Lisa,  
17, daughter of Lloyd and Laura  
Reiff, Strasburg, said not being  
able to talk during competition is  
so hard because "I like to let my  
feelings out and talk."

For Lisa, nine-year 4-H mem-  
ber, judging is more difficult but  
giving reasons is her forte. Lisa  
attends Lampeter-Strasburg High  
School.

Dale Livengood said he scores  
best at beef judging with experi-  
ence from showing at county fairs.  
He said he's been doing well at  
beef judging and giving reasons.  
"I'm not the best on the team. But I  
enjoy beef judging."

A challenge for Dale is provid-  
ing reasons and judging for breed-  
ing ewes, said Dale, 17, son of Earl  
and Joyce Livengood, Lancaster.  
The eight-year 4-H member  
attends Faith Mennonite High  
School.

One of the biggest challenges  
for Lisa Reiff was the recent Pen-  
sylvania 4-H Achievement Days  
held the last week in July. The  
team faced the most pressure than  
any contest at that event because it  
was a requirement to move onto  
national competition.

For the team, this is especially  
challenging now that school is in  
session, and it becomes difficult to  
juggle schedules and work out the  
times to be on the road, attending  
competition or practicing during  
the weekday.

During NAILE competition, the  
team takes down notes and has to  
memorize them within 10-15  
minutes. Then, alone, they face the  
judges and have to give their rea-  
sons for the placement.

But the team is never certain  
about what to expect when they  
arrive at the contest. To them,



While the team travels to Louisville, members will practice on selected farms enroute, brushing up on their judging and reasoning skills. Practice farms are scattered throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Kentucky. The group will stop at Ohio State University and the University of Kentucky. Also, the team will tour Churchhill Downs, the Louisville Slugger Plant, and Thoroughbred horse farms in Lexington.



Lancaster County 4-H Livestock Judging Team members will be traveling to compete at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky. on Tuesday, Nov. 14. At the Landis Farm, the team inspects a Hampshire ewe lamb. From left, Dale Livengood, Lisa Reiff, Gerald Boyd, and Regina Landis.

enduring a scenario is challenging  
because they have to understand  
what EPDs and other traits will  
mean to solving the challenge  
placed by the judges.

Recently, the team practiced at  
the farm of Regina Landis in Man-  
heim. Team members were judg-  
ing Hampshire ewe lambs and pre-  
sented with a "scenario," includ-  
ing a breakdown of genetic  
evaluations of the flock.

But the endless practices are  
often like trying to study for a  
scholastic aptitude test — it's hard  
to prepare for a quiz in science  
when the questions could be about  
psychology or geography.

"You never know what you can  
expect when you get into the con-  
test," said Lisa.

This year, the team placed first  
at the Penn State Block and Bridle  
contest in March, the Delaware  
Valley Block and Bridle contest in  
April, the York County Livestock

Contest in July, the state 4-H  
Achievement Days in July, and the  
Eastern States Exposition in Sep-  
tember. The team placed second at  
the Southeast Regional 4-H Lives-  
tock Contest in July and second at  
the Eastern National Livestock  
Show in September.

Chet Hughes, coach and county  
livestock agent, said this was the  
15th group he has taken to the  
NAILE since he began work at the  
extension office in 1982. Team  
coaches are Hughes, Greg Musser,  
Fred Weaver, Margaret Dffen-  
bach, and Mark Campbell.



Regina said that although the team works together to solve some weaknesses in their judging and reasoning efforts, she is still working to improve her strengths in the hog judging classes.



Dale Livengood said he scores best at beef judging with experience from showing at county fairs. He said he's been doing well at beef judging and giving reasons. "I'm not the best on the team. But I enjoy beef judging."

## Farm Safety Camp

LEWISBURG (Union  
Co.)—160 youth participated in a  
Farm Safety Camp on October 14,  
at the Beaver Fairgrounds, Beaver  
Springs, hosted by Penn State  
Cooperative Extension with spon-  
sorship by Capital Blue Cross and  
Pennsylvania Blue Shield.

The children had a fun-filled  
day learning serious safety infor-  
mation in livestock handling,  
ATV riding, tractor driving, pesti-  
cide precautions, operating lawn

mowers, first aid, fire prevention,  
hazard awareness around manure  
pits and ponds, PTO and corn  
picker entanglements, and dangers  
of playing in gravity flow wagons.  
Strong support from the  
community—businesses, agricul-  
tural groups and health organiza-  
tions created a memorable  
program—one that will improve  
each child's safe future on the  
farm.