

Four-H Salutes Sara Strickler



Of all her 4-H projects, Sara loves her sheep the best. Here she prepares one for showing.

Days. Other years, public speaking qualified her for state competition. Over the years, the whole Strickler family has been involved in 4-H. Her sister Amy has participated in almost every activity. Sara's mom Dottie is a 4-leader. Her dad Sam had helped with a 4-H beekeeping club for several years. The Stricklers have 125 hives, mostly in Bradford County. A senior at Solanco High School, Sara serves as president of both her school FFA and the county FFA.

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LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — National 4-H Week, celebrated from Oct. 6-12, highlights the accomplishments of its members.

Sara Strickler of Quarryville is one of those members whose lives have been shaped by 4-H involvement.

When asked how 4-H has affected her life, she exclaimed, "It's affected my life in every way."

The 17-year-old went on to elaborate on some of those ways by saying, "When I was eight years old, I was afraid to talk in front of others. Four-H taught me public speaking skills."

She's traveled to Oklahoma and Arizona and established lasting friendships as part of the 4-H Exchange Club.

Next month Sara and another member Gerald Boyd will represent Lancaster County 4-H by flying to the National 4-H Congress held in Nashville from Nov. 29-Dec. 5.

The Congress is a reward of sorts for a select group of members on their accomplishments over the years. While there, members will not compete with each other but participate in seminars and go sight-seeing.

Sara said that she has participated in every project offered by the Solanco Community 4-H Club, which provides hands-on educational programs and activities.

One of the projects she pursues with diligence is caring for her

sheep. "It's taught me lots of responsibility," Sara said of raising both market lambs and breeding sheep. Showing, blocking, and fitting are skills learned only through doing again and again.

One of the side activities of sheep raising is participating in lead line competitions. This requires not only showing off the sheep's best qualities but also modeling wool outfits. Participants are judged on appearance, poise, modeling skills, in addition to the smooth handling of the sheep and the sheep's appearance. This week, Sara took second place in the senior division of the Manheim Farm Show Lead Line.

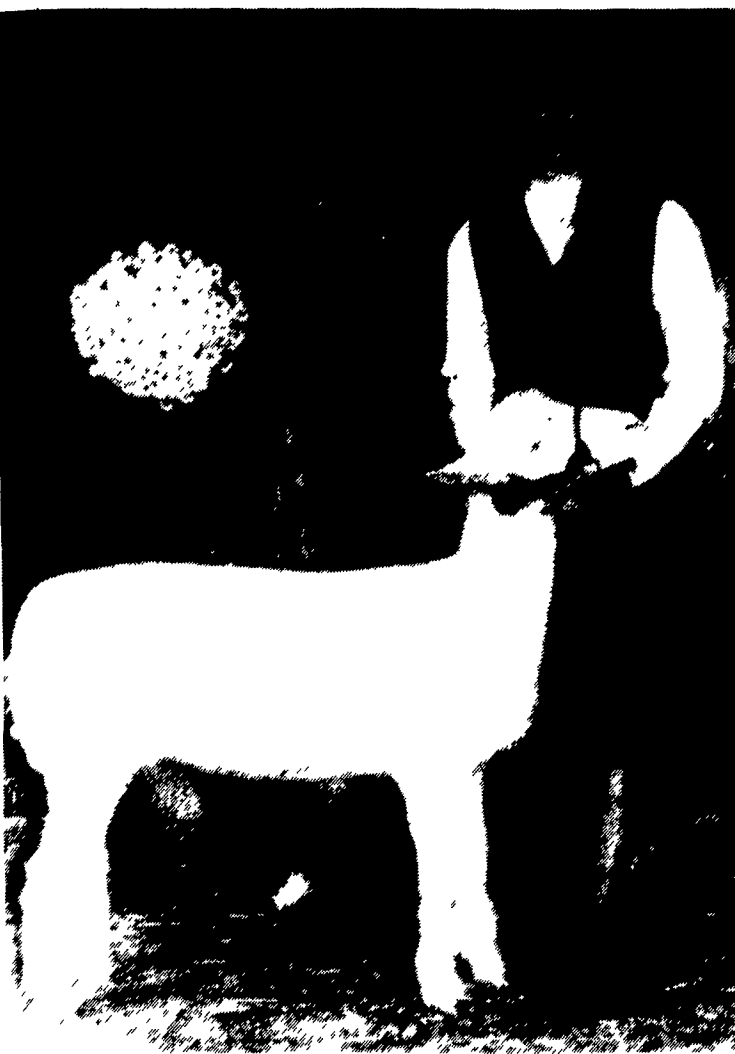
Previously, Sara raised hogs but she switched to sheep because "sheep are easy to work with and I like lambing," she said.

Sara keeps about 12 Dorsets and Hampshires on her uncle's farm.

She said that she is in charge of every aspect of the sheep. In 1995, Sara received the Novice Shepherd Award of the Year Award and top scrapbook. On the sheep show circuit, Sara has shown champion Dorset and Hampshire ewes and won blocking and fitting contests at Lampeter twice.

Although Sara participates in sewing and cooking clubs and is a 4-H ambassador and teen leader, her sheep are the most important to her.

Her favorite 4-H event has been 4-H State Days held annually at Penn State. This year Sara participated in livestock judging at State



Sara participates in Manheim Farm Show Lead Line competition, where she is judged for her outfit, which promotes wool, her modeling skills, her ability to handle a sheep, and her sheep's appearance. Sara received second place out of eight contestants in the senior category.

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