

# York 4-H Meats Judge Equally At Home In Show Arena

**JOYCE BUPP**  
York Co. Correspondent  
**DOVER (York Co.)** — Place him in the show ring and he often takes champion honors.

Put him through the auction arena, and he may set a new price record.

Send him to a national competition, and he brings home the top award.

"I like to compete, to see what I can do," grinned Mike Burrell, an affable and easy-going York 4-H member who has managed to snag top honors in just about every competition he enters.

In November, the 16-year-old Dover High School junior took first place in the national 4-H meats judging contest, held at Kansas City, Kansas. With that top placing came a \$1,000 scholarship and more awards to add to a trophy and ribbon collection that nearly overflows the family's Mountain Road home.

Burrell found his interest in livestock spurred eight years ago while visiting the York Fair. He spied a classmate showing sheep and decided it looked like an interesting thing to do.

When Burrell sets his mind to do something, he works at it; and his parents, William and Carolyn Burrell, are a supportive team in all his efforts.

He settled on sheep because of their smaller size and the lesser investment needed than for a beef project. The Burrell family has a 10-acre farm on Mountain Road, north of Dover, and sheep better fit their facilities.

"I like sheep more," Burrell says of this livestock choice. "Steers are so difficult to train and get ready for a show. And there's always a steer at the shows that manages to get loose. Sheep are easier to handle, but they do take as much work as a steer."

A Suffolk enthusiast, Burrell has both purebreds and some unregistered stock of the large, black-headed breed, as well as one Hampshire in his small flock. For market class competition, he has done well with Suffolk cross-breeds.

"The Suffolks usually have more meat and better carcasses," said this accomplished meats and livestock judge. "They're meatier and leaner. Judges seem to like the black-faced sheep better, too."

It was his knowledge of meats, off the hoof, as well as on, that earned Burrell his national meats judging honors.

The Phil Sellers family, whose sons are long-time junior sheep exhibitors in York County, en-

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Mike Burrell sits with his trophies, plaques and awards for junior livestock and 4-H activities that fill his family's home.



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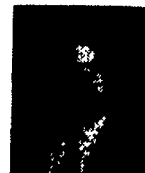
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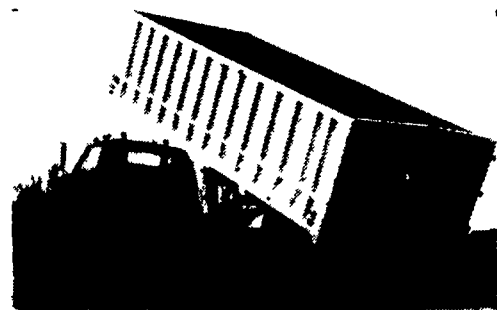


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