

Novices And Veterans Clinch Sheep Titles At Ephrata

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EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) —

In his first year of showing, Chris Hess of Lutz took grand champion market lamb honors with a Polypay Dorset named Elvis.

"Everybody says that I'm a farmer at heart," the 12-year-old said of his reason for entering sheep competition.

For several years, Chris has shown dogs, but said that he likes sheep much better.

"Sheep are more work to get ready but easier to show," he said.

"Winning was very much a surprise," said Chris, son of Bill and Ann Hess. The lamb was purchased from Dudley Rohrer of Manheim.

Showing the reserve champion market lamb was another first-time winner, although she has been competing for years.

"I didn't have a clue that I'd win, but I'm very happy," said Kathy Musser, 16, of Mount Joy. She had purchased the crossbred from Kirk Diffenderfer and named the lamb "Ai," the Japanese word for love.

"Since it was a Valentine's baby, I thought the name very appropriate," Kathy said.

Kathy and her two brother who show sheep are the children of Ken and Linda Musser.

Steve Taylor of State College judged the event held at the Ephrata Park on Wednesday. Competition included 127 head in market, non-sale, and breeding sheep divisions.

Another first for the Ephrata Sheep Show was the offering of market non-sale classes.

In her first year of showing, Rachel Day clinched the grand championship with a Suffolk cross named Miles, which had also won at Denver Fair two weeks earlier.

The daughter of Cliff and Anna Day, Rachel said that Miles has developed lots of muscling from running on a ramp and sprinting behind their New Holland home.

The reserve champion non-sale lamb was shown by Travis Donough, a veteran winner in sheep circles for nine years.

"It's a pure Suffolk, I don't know why she turned black," Travis said of the stylish-looking lamb.

Although Margarita's wool coloring would count against her in breed shows, her finishing was impressive for the market. The Suffolk's muscle tone was fully developed from walking and hurdle jumping.

"She's my favorite lamb. She is smooth appearing, friendly, and tame. I think it's in the gene's," Travis said.

A senior at Manheim Central High School, Travis is active in FFA and 4-H. He is the son of Ed and LaRue Donough of Manheim.

Competition was held for 10 dif-

ferent breeds, which included more unique breeds such as the Lincoln, Polypay, and Jacobs. But when the champion of each breed entered the show ring for the judge's final decision on the grand champion breeding sheep overall, a Hampshire took top placing and a Dorset took the reserve champion breeding sheep honor.

Jimmy Zimmerman, 13, showed the champion breeding sheep named Stacy, which he had purchased from Stacy Suffolk's of State College.

His sister Jenny, 15, showed a Southdown to take the champion ram over all breeds. Jenny also was the reserve champion over all divisions of showmanship.

Jenny and Jimmy are the children of Jay and Joann of Reinholds. They raise about 55 head of Southdowns and Hampshires.

Tracy Zimmerman of Manheim showed the reserve champion breeding sheep. Although they share the same last name, the two top winners are not related. Tracy is better known as Tracy Bollinger, but the 20-year-old married Ryan Zimmerman recently. It's Tracy's last year of showing and the first time that she won the champion breeding sheep.

"I'm most proud because this is a homebred sheep," Tracy said of the Dorset ewe lamb.

Amy Bollinger, 18, took championship honors in showmanship over all divisions. Her win was unique in that in her class division she was named reserved because the sheep had a few shavings underneath his belly. Amy brushed them off when champions and reserves from each class entered for the final showdown. The judge remarked that Amy's skill in handling her sheep combined every trait for which he looks.

Her win was especially sweet, for it marked the first time she placed above her older sister Tracy Zimmerman. Amy and Tracy are the daughters of Eugene and Carol Bollinger.

Champions in each breeding sheep division included the following:

Keith Bollinger, son of Raymond and Sharon Bollinger of Ephrata, showed the Cheviot ewe champion.

In the Columbia breed, Kelsey Bowman of Drumore showed the grand champion ewe and her brother Gabriel Bowman, the grand champion ram.

Dorset: Tracy Zimmerman showed the champion ewe, and Radell Peters, son of Raymond and Becky Peters of Middletown, the champion ram.

Shropshire champion ewe honors went to Amy Bollinger.

Southdown champion ewe and ram went to Jen Zimmerman.

Suffolk champion ewe went to Andrew Gerhart of Reinholds.



In his first year of showing, Chris Hess exhibited the grand champion market lamb trophy, and Kathy Musser's heavyweight took the reserve title. Judge Steve Taylor is from State College.



At the Ephrata Sheep Show, Judge Steve Taylor selects Jimmy Zimmerman's champion breeding sheep over all breeds and Tracy Zimmerman's homebred lamb as the reserve.

Jacobs champion ewe was shown by Radell Peters of Middletown.

Lincoln champion ewe was shown by Gabriel Bowman of Drumore.

Polypay champion ewe and ram was shown by Dallasa Bowman of Drumore.

A partial listing of winners is as follows:

SHOWMANSHIP

1st Year: 1. Dallasa Bowman, 2. Rachel Day, 3. Chris Hess.
 2nd & 3rd Yr.: 1. Gabriel Bowman, 2. Becki Day, 3. Joelynn Donough.
 2nd & 3rd Yr.: 1. Amy Haines, 2. Andrew Gerhart, 3. Josh Hoover.
 Champion: Gabriel Bowman.
 Reserve Champion: Becki Day.
 4th & 5th Yr.: 1. Derrick Bollinger, 2. Kathy Musser, 3. Holly Hoover.
 4th & 5th Yr.: 1. Jen Zimmerman, 2. Jimmy Zimmerman, 3. Jay Zimmerman.
 Champion: Jen Zimmerman
 Reserve Champion: Derrick Bollinger
 Senior 1: 1. Travis Donough, 2. Amy Bol-

linger, 3. Radell Peters
 Senior 2: 1. Tracy Zimmerman, 2. Renee Hoover, 3. Jenny Hoover.
 Champion: Amy Bollinger.
 Reserve Champion: Tracy Zimmerman.
 Grand Champion Showman: Amy Bollinger.
 Reserve Grand Champion Showman: Jen Zimmerman.

MARKET—NONSALE

Lightweight 1: 1. Travis Donough, 2. Jen Zimmerman, 3. Josh Hoover.
 Lightweight 2: 1. Chris Hess, 2. Ryan Donough, 3. Jay Zimmerman.
 Lightweight 3: 1. Joelynn Donough, 2. Becki Day, 3. Travis Donough.
 Medium 1: 1. Travis Donough, 2. Ryan Donough, 3. Ryan Donough.
 Medium 2: 1. Rachel Day, 2. Jay Zimmerman, 3. Gerald Boyd.
 Heavyweight 1: 1. Amy Bollinger, 2. Tracy Zimmerman, 3. Derrick Bollinger.
 Heavyweight 2: 1. Rachel Day, 2. Joelynn Donough, 3. Becki Day.
 Champion Nonsale: Rachel Day.
 Reserve Champion Nonsale: Travis Donough.

MARKET—SALE

Lightweight 1: 1. Renee Hoover, 2. Jay Zimmerman, 3. Jenny Hoover.
 Champion Lightweight: Renee Hoover.
 Reserve Champion Lightweight: Jay

Zimmerman.
 Medium 1: 1. Gerald Boyd, 2. Jimmy Zimmerman, 3. Radell Peters.
 Medium 2: 1. Chris Hess, 2. Jimmy Zimmerman, 3. Holly Hoover.
 Champion Mediumweight: Chris Hess.
 Reserve Champion Mediumweight: Gerald Boyd.
 Heavyweight 1: 1. Kathy Musser, 2. Kathy Musser, 3. Sarah Boyd.
 Heavyweight 2: 1. Amy Bollinger, 2. Derrick Bollinger, 3. Renee Hoover.
 Champion Heavyweight: Kathy Musser.
 Reserve Champion Heavyweight: Amy Bollinger.
 Grand Champion Market: Chris Hess.
 Reserve Champion Market: Kathy Musser.

PAIR

Lightweight 1: 1. Jay Zimmerman, 2. Jimmy Zimmerman, 3. Jen Zimmerman.
 Medium 1: 1. Travis Donough, 2. Chris Hess, 3. Becki Day.
 Medium 2: 1. Rachel Day, 2. Ryan Donough, 3. Joelynn Donough.
 Heavyweight 1: 1. Derrick Bollinger, 2. Sarah Boyd, 3. Tracy Zimmerman.
 Heavyweight 2: 1. Amy Bollinger, 2. Kathy Musser, 3. Andrew Gerhart.

BREEDING SHEEP

Cheviot Ewe Lambs: 1. Keith Bollinger,

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Showmanship honors at the Ephrata Sheep Show go to Jen Zimmerman, left, reserve, and Amy Bollinger, champion.