Schinell, 'Sammy' Off To Farm Show

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Mifflin Co. Correspondent

MCCLURE (Snyder Co.) – What does it take to show horses, steers, pigs and sheep through FFA and 4-H? To milk cows at 5 a.m. before going to school? Energy!

Seventeen-year-old Schinell Renninger from McClure, Mifflin County, loves animals and doesn't like being bored. As a senior at the Juniata/Mifflin Counties Vocational Technical School in Lewistown, she'll show her market sheep named Sammy for the first time at the Farm Show.

Schinell bought a Suffolk-Dorset cross from her FFA adviser Mark Laub. He and Schinell's parents, Steven and Rhonda, encouraged her to show at the Farm Show. FFA adviser Kim Steward helped band her sheep for show the show.

"Schinell is very enthusiastic. She's an active member of our FFA, has served as vice president, and now is a student advisor," said Mark.

"I've always wanted to show at the Farm Show," Schinell said. "I just want to see how good I can do against kids throughout the state. At our local fair, we can see what the competition is. I can't do that at the Farm Show. I'm only there during the day. I stay overnight only if I have to. I like to come to school."

Schinell will help the FFA landscaping club set up its farm Show Display and will join the beef club to watch judging.

"I just love animals. You can tell them anything and they won't tell anyone! They relieve a lot of stress. You don't have too many bad days with animals."

As a 4-H member for five years and an FFA member for four, Schinell's dedication has paid off. She's earned grand champion fitting for her beef projects and reserve showmanship for her beef and sheep projects She is also a member of the swine and horse clubs.

She wakes each morning at 5 a.m. to milk cows at her uncle Darvin Renninger's farm. She recently tore or stretched some ligaments in her ankle while playing volleyball. Her injury has slowed her movements but not her enthusiasm.

"I haven't been able to milk for two weeks. It's just killin' me! I have to be moving. I don't like to get bored."

When Schinell looses the crutches, she'll need to wear an air cast for three months but will be allowed to milk cows.

After graduation, Schinell would like to attend college to become a landscape designer or a veterinarian's assistant. She'd like to dairy farm, too.

Torn ligaments won't keep Schinell Renninger from showing her Suffolk-Dorset cross at the Farm Show.

Agrisurance Safety Group Pays $335,000 Dividend To Farmers

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — If farmers needed another reason to farm safely, they've got one in the form of financial rewards. More than 600 farmers will receive dividend checks as rewards for farming safely. The dividends will come from Agrisurance, a workers' compensation safety group managed by Agri-Service Agencies, Inc., of Syracuse, N.Y.

Recently, Agri-Service Agencies presented Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Samuel E. Hayes Jr., with a symbolic check for $335,000, representing the total amount of the insurance company's dividend return to its farmer-members. The meeting will be held at the Pennsylvania State College Days Inn from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and will be attended by several of the group's farmer-members.

"Workers' compensation costs need to be reduced in order for Pennsylvania agriculture to be competitive with farm businesses in order states," said Craig Buckhout, president of Agri-Service Agencies. "Through Agrisurance, we are able to provide coverage at a rate that is up to 25 percent below the standard bureau rate and share the benefits of safe farming by paying a dividend."

The Agrisurance workers' compensation safety group began in 1994 as part of a program through the State Workmen's Insurance Fund (SWIF). In 1996, ASA put together an innovative program with USF&G, an "A"-rated national carrier. The program is now able to pay dividends based on the group's favorable claims experience. During the 1996-97 fiscal year, the group's 600 members experienced an excellent loss-ratio, made fewer claims and, as a result, earned a substantial dividend. Checks presented this month to members represent a total 20 percent group dividend plus an extra five percent for members boasting a low loss-ratio.

For more than 25 years, Agri-Service Agencies has proved health insurance and other employee benefit programs to farmers and agribusiness owners across the Northeast. Agri-Service Agencies is a subsidiary of Dairylea Cooperative Inc., a Syracuse-based agricultural service organization, cooperatively owned by more than 2,800 dairy farmers.

For more information about the State College check presentation, contact Paul Quinn at Agri-Service Agencies at (800) 654-8840.

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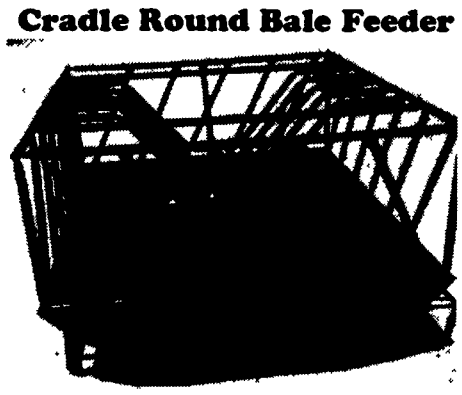

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