

Breeding Sheep, Market Lambs Compete At 4-H Fair

LOU ANN GOOD

**Lancaster Farming Staff
LAMPETER (Lancaster Co.)**
— Months ago Sarah Boyd traded two pigs for a lamb from B & B in Ohio.

She doesn't know how the pigs have done since then, but an estate Sarah clutched the championship banner for the lamb at the Lancaster County 4-H Fair last week at the Lampeter Fairgrounds.

Although Sarah, daughter of Kerry and Deb Boyd, has shown numerous champion hogs, this was the first time she managed to show the grand champion market lamb.

The win wasn't completely due to genetics. Sarah walked the lamb about one mile every day to build up muscling.

Named Jordan, the Suffolk-crossbred will be entered in competition at the upcoming Denver, Ephrata, and New Holland fairs.

Judge Rod Crone said that in selecting the market champion, he looks for correctness, muscle, and frame in that order. He said that Sarah's Suffolk-cross was as smooth as possible from hip to dock and had all the necessary ingredients for a champion market lamb.

Taking the reserve champion market lamb title was a Hamp-Suffolk cross, which was the light heavyweight champion shown by Jessica Stoltzfus.

Earlier in the day, Jessica was named reserve champion showman. She finished out the day by collecting the ribbons for showing the championship breeding sheep with her homebred Dorset. In addition, Sarah received honors for the best bred and owned champion breeding sheep.

Jessica purchased the market lamb from Tim Fleener of Robesonia, who had purchased it from Ohio.

Of the champion breeding sheep, Jessica said that it is really special because she watched it being born. The Dorset champion is the offspring of Brittany, a former supreme breeding sheep winner.

The champion ewe has a full brother, whose sire is Bad Attitude, at the Penn State Test Station.

Another of Jessica's Dorset boasts the largest loin eye ever on record at the Penn State Test Station. It was the top selling Dorset at the Penn State sale held about three weeks ago.

This is probably Jessica's last year in showing. She is a cross country runner at Elizabethtown High School. Because she hopes to win a scholarship on her running ability, Jessica said that she will be unable to participate in upcoming county fairs.

Because Jessica has built up her flock of 40 Dorsets, she hopes her parents, Frank and Irene, will keep the ewes while she is away at college, although the offspring will be sold.

"It's neat to win supreme breeding sheep with what's bred on your own farm," Jessica said.

The showmanship champion was Jen Zimmerman. The 16-year-old junior at Ephrata High School has been winning showmanships around the county for years, but this was her first win at the annual 4-H Fair.

Jessica and brothers Jimmy and Jay, own 65 head made up of Dorsets, Cheviots, Hampshires, and Southdowns.

The novice showman was Dustin Collins. Only 9 years old, Dustin said, "I just love animals."

He started out with chickens, then tried a few pigs.

"But I like sheep the best," said Dustin. The doghouse on the family's Peach Bottom home has been

transformed to a chicken house then to a pig pen, and now a sheep pen, where Dustin's crossbred Oreo is kept along with Dustin's sister Marie's lamb.

Dustin is the son of Donna and Larry Collins. He credits his parents and grandparents with encouraging him in 4-H participation.

"When I got Oreo, my dad really warned me to keep the door closed, but one time dad forgot to close it and Oreo jumped the fence. It took us at least one hour before we got Oreo back in the pen," Dustin said.

Showing both the champion lightweight market lamb and the reserve heavyweight market champion was Heather Ziegler. Tiffany Dean showed the reserve lightweight champion.

Mediumweight champion market lamb was shown by April Leaman and the reserve by Travis Donough. His brother Ryan Donough showed the reserve light heavyweight champion and his sister Joellyn received the award for showing the best bred and owned market lamb.

In addition to the Dorset champion selected as the supreme breeding sheep, the following breed winners are as follows:

- Cheviot champion and reserve shown by Jimmy Zimmerman.
- Columbia champion and reserve shown by Gabriel Bowman.
- Corriedale champion shown by Sarah Broomell.
- Hampshire champion shown by Jimmy Zimmerman.
- Horned Dorset champion and reserve shown by Jennifer Zimmerman.
- Lincoln champion and reserve shown by Gabriel Bowman.
- Montadale champion shown by Jessica Schmidt.

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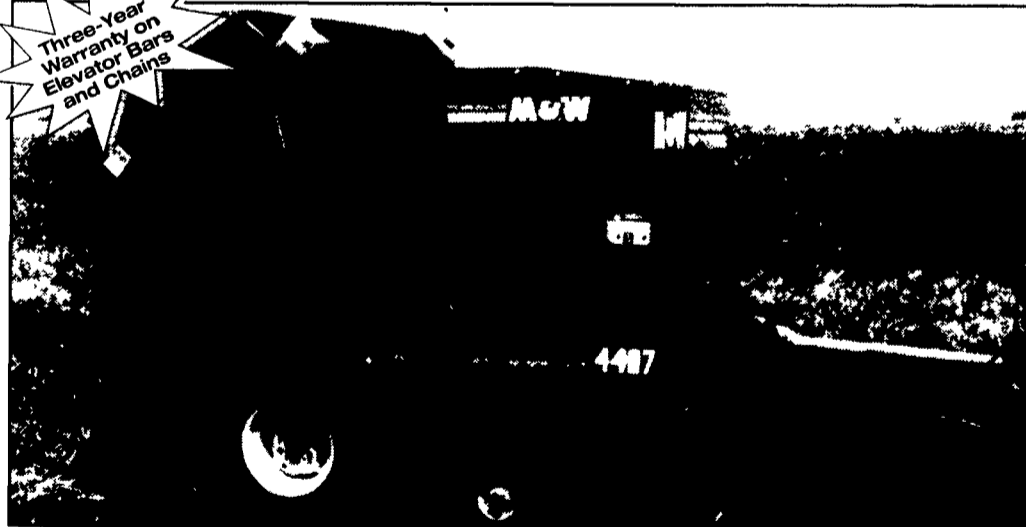
Sarah Boyd shows the champion market lamb at the Lancaster County 4-H Fair. Judge Rod Crone selected the Suffolk crossbred based on correctness, smooth muscling, and frame size.



Showmanship champions at the Lancaster County 4-H Fair, from left, are reserve champion Jessica Stoltzfus and Jen Zimmerman, champion.

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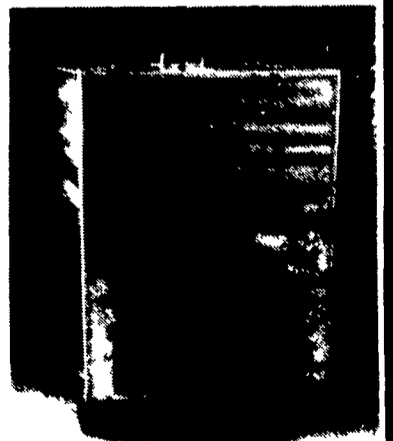
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