

4-H HAPPENINGS

*All Gardens
Great & Small*
by
York Co.
Horticultural Agent
Tom Becker



Drying Plants From The Garden

It's not too late to start drying annuals and perennials. The best time to gather flowers, herbs, and plants for drying is when the plants are at full bloom. Strip off the leaves, tie the stems tightly together and keep the different types of plants separate. Some annuals good for drying are cockscomb, annual statice, strawflowers, and globe amaranth. Perennials include yarrow, blue salvia and perennial babies' breath. Wild plants worth collecting are Queen Anne's lace, goldenrod and thistle.

The easiest method is to air dry plants. Hang bunches of 10-12 stems upside down in a dark, dry, well-ventilated area like a closet or attic. Remember to keep drying plants out of direct sunlight. For herbs being dried for their fragrance or flavor use a portable laundry rack or wires strung across a wall in a dry room. Cut annuals at the soil line and perennials about one-third down the stem. Include as many side branches as possible.

Since herbs are a food item, they require special care prior to drying. Herbs are at their peak flavor just before flowering. Wash the herbs lightly in cold, running water to remove any soil, dust, insects or other foreign matter. Drain foliage on an

absorbent towel and let it dry before moving to the final drying step. Collect them for drying at this time.

To prevent flowers in the composite, family like Queen Ann lace flowers from closing, air dry them right-side-up. A cane-seated chair works well. Chicken wire or cake cooling racks also work.

Dry vines on window screens or racks. This preserves their vining shape and prevents all the flowers from being perfectly straight.

Fragile stems and flowers to be used for decoration should be reinforced with thin wire before drying. This allows you to handle the dried material more easily.

Many herbs and thin-petaled flowers and plants dry within three weeks. The thickness of the stems and plant parts determine the actual length of time needed. Do not rush the process or handle the plants during the drying period.

Blossoms and stems with high moisture content do not air dry well. One method uses a drying agent such as silica gel, sand or borax. Another drying method places plants upright in water. Wait till the water evaporates. Lavendar and chives dry better using this method.

To maintain the shape and texture of delicate flowers and

Wayne Steer Show

The 1998 Junior Market Steer Show was Thursday, Aug. 13 at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Homesdale. There were 26 animals at the event and the judge for the evening was Larry Weaver of New Holland.

The grand champion steer was shown by Julie Olver of the Bethany Ag and the reserve grand champion steer was shown by Nick Nebzydoski of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters Club.

The division winners were: champion lightweight, Darryl Marshall and reserve champion lightweight, Daryl Burleigh.

leaves, layer them with silica gel in an airtight container. Silica gel, a granular drying material that looks like sand has blue indicator crystals that turn pink, when they have become saturated with water. Recharge the gel by heating it in a 225 degree oven for several hours to restore the blue color. Silica gel is usually available from florists or their suppliers.

The total silica gel drying process may take from two to four weeks. After the plant or parts have dried, remove them from the container and shake off the silica gel. Use them directly in a sealed container.

Silica gel has also been suggested as a drying method for fleshy or thick stemmed herbs. Thoroughly rinse herbs in clear, cold water, before using in salads, soups and other dishes.

Any questions regarding the above article can be addressed to Tom Becker, Penn State Cooperative Extension at (717) 840-7408.

Champion middleweight was Ben Nogan and reserve champion middleweight was Eric Cavage. Champion heavyweight was Julie Olver and reserve champion heavyweight was Nick Nebzydoski.

Class placings are as follows: WAYNE STEER SHOW RESULTS

- Lightweight 1 Daryl Burleigh, 2 Jarrod Burleigh, 3 Heather Yedinak
- Reserve champion lightweight, Darryl Burleigh
- Medium lightweight 1 Darryl Marshall, 2 Nicholas Brown, 3 Josh Swingle
- Champion lightweight Darryl Marshall
- Heavy lightweight 1 Matthew Shaffer, 2 Scottie Swingle
- Light middleweight 1 Charles L. Megivern II, 2 Tom Nebzydoski, 3 Roy Swingle
- Medium middleweight 1 Enc Cavage, 2 Luke Rogers, 3 Scott Malicky
- Reserve champion middleweight Enc Cavage
- Heavy middleweight 1 Ben Nogan, 2 Jessica Scull, 3 Shelly Woodmansee
- Champion middleweight Ben Nogan
- Light heavyweight 1 Julie Olver, 2 Andrew Krompasky, 3 Karen Munger
- Champion heavyweight Julie Olver
- Medium heavyweight 1 Nick Nebzydoski, 2 William Keyes
- Reserve champion heavyweight Nick Nebzydoski
- Heavy heavyweight 1 Enn Munger, 2 Matt Rutledge, 3 Sarah Graves

4-H Sheep Breeding Show

The 4-H Sheep Breeding Show was Aug. 11, at the Wayne County Fairgrounds. Judge for the event was Tim Hall, Dalmatia. There were seven breeds shown at the event.

The supreme champion ram was a Cheviot and was exhibited by Steven Propst of the Cherry Ridge 4-H Club. The supreme

champion ewe was a Montadale and was shown by Michael Korb of the Cherry Ridge 4-H Club.

- Class winners included:
- Cheviot**
 - Class 103 Junior Ram Lamb 1 Steven Propst
 - Champion Ram Steven Propst
 - Class 106 Ewe, 2 years & under 4 years 1 Steven Propst
 - Class 109 Junior Ewe Lamb 1 Steven Propst
 - Champion Ewe Steven Propst
 - Reserve Champion Ewe Steven Propst
 - Horned Dorset**
 - Class 306 Ewe, 2 years & under 4 years 1 Theron LaTourette
 - Class 309 Junior Ewe Lamb 1 Theron LaTourette, 2 Theron LaTourette
 - Champion Ewe, Theron LaTourette
 - Reserve Champion Ewe, Theron LaTourette
 - Polled Dorset**
 - Class 406 Ewe, 2 years & under 4 years 1 Matthew Weist, 2 Matthew Weist
 - Class 407 Ewe, 1 year & under 2 years 1 Matthew Gilbert, 2 Kate Krempasky, 3 Matthew Gilbert
 - Class 409 Junior Ewe Lamb 1 Ryan Diehl, 2 Matthew Weist, 3 Matthew Gilbert
 - Champion Ewe Ryan Diehl
 - Reserve Champion Ewe Matthew Weist
 - Class 412 Ewe & Offspring 1 Matthew Weist

- Hampshire**
- Class 506 Ewe, 2 years & under 4 years 1 Jennifer Flickert
- Class 509 Junior Ewe Lamb, 1 Ryan Diehl
- 2 Nicole Diehl, 3 Emily Wood
- Champion Ewe Ryan Diehl
- Reserve Champion Ewe, Nichole Diehl
- Suffolk**
- Class 903 Junior Ram Lamb 1 Matthew Gilbert
- Champion Ram Matthew Gilbert
- Class 906 Ewe, 2 years & under 4 years 1 Adam Diehl, 2 Michale Korb
- Champion Ewe Adam Diehl
- Reserve Champion Ewe Michael Korb
- Shetland**
- Class 1006 Ewe, 2 years and under 4 years 1 Laura Talaga
- Class 1009 Junior Ewe Lamb 1 Laura Talaga
- Champion Ewe Laura Talega
- Reserve Champion Ewe Laura Talega
- Class 1012 Ewe & Offspring 1 Laura Talaga

- Montadale**
- Class 1106 Ewe, 2 years & under 4 years, 1 Michael Korb, 2 Michael Korb, 3 Annie O'Brien
- Class 1109 Junior Ewe Lamb 1 Annie O'Brien, 2 Annie O'Brien
- Champion Ewe Michael Korb
- Reserve Champion Ewe Michael Korb

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