

Sarah Zurin Reigns At Manheim Farm Show



Sarah Zurin reigns as Manheim Farm Show Queen.

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — Monday night at the Manheim Farm Show should have been named Sarah Zurin night. First the petite 17-year-old captured the crown as Manheim Farm Show Queen then she led her spunky ewe lamb Katie in fashionable style to clinch top placing in the Shepherd's Lead Line Contest.

Her achievements were no fluke. Sarah has spent years competing in lead line competitions and in sheep-related 4-H projects.

A qualification for entering the queen contest requires contestants to be involved in some type of agriculture and to present an essay on what the Farm Show means to her. With seven years in the county 4-H Woolies Club, Sarah has been an active competitor at Farm Show events. And, lead line experience helps her gain ease before a crowd and remain calm when handling a rambunctious lamb.

The Lead Line requires contestants to dress in an attractive outfit that is at least 80 percent wool and lead a yearling ewe or lamb that is clean and neatly groomed. Contestants are judged on poise and presentation.

For her lead line outfit, Sara selected a brown plaid wool skirt with a matching brown vest over a classy white shirt. (Pictures and additional winners will appear in next week's issue).

Sarah lives with her parents Gary and Judy Zurin and two brothers at Newcomer Road in Mount Joy, which is in the Manheim Central School District.

She plays trumpet in the Marching Barons Band, and is a staff member of both the schools literary magazine and the yearbook. Sarah is also the secretary of the school's National Honor Society. At Calvary Bible Church, Sarah



After being crowned Farm Show Queen, Sarah Zurin made a dash to change into a wool outfit in order to participate in the Shepherd's Lead Line, where she captured the grand champion prize in the senior division.

is a member of the puppet team, the drama team, and a core Bible study group.

For the past three summer's Sarah has participated in mission projects with Habitat for Humanity and on missions teams to Jamaica, Ukraine, and Romania.

After high school graduation, Sarah plans to attend Bible college

and then go into full-time mission work in Eastern Europe.

As Fair Queen, Sarah received a \$100 savings bond and \$50 in cash. In addition to handing out ribbons at livestock events, she will ride in the Farm Show parade and receive an all-expense paid trip to the State Farm Show Queen Pageant to be held in January.

Top Gun Award Winners Compete Nationally

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Five teen-age boys, four from Pennsylvania and one from Maryland, are celebrating a national victory.

The five received the Top Gun Award at the National Junior Show held recently at the All American Show in Indiana.

According to reports, it is unusual to have so many winners from this area because the show is dominated by western exhibitors.

More than 1,000 exhibitors attended the show and 300 youths competed for the Top Gun Award, which is determined from an accumulation of points attained by participating in various activities. The scores reflect the most well-rounded individual for sheep promotion, shepherding, marketing, and speaking. These are determined from showing the breed, preparing an essay, an ad layout, designing a logo, and video with script.

The five Top Gun winners are Kyle Fleener, representing the Hampshire breed; Jesse Rohrer, representing the Shropshire breed; Eric Cowden, representing the Dorset breed; Billy Leib, representing the Rambouillet breed, and Jacob Gargas, representing the Oxford breed.

Jesse Rohrer is the 16-year-old son of Jeff and Julie Poffenberger of Sharpsburg, Md. The family lives on a beef farm, but Jesse has

raised his own sheep since he was 8 years old. He now has 40 head of Shropshires, Suffolks, and Hampshires, but won the award for the Shropshire species.

"I love showing, but lambing is also an exciting time because it's interesting to see what I'm going to have to work with the next season," Jesse said.

Eric Cowden, 17, is the son of Bruce and Sandy Cowden of Prosperity. It was the third year, Eric won the Top Gun award in the Dorset breed.

He also had his introduction to sheep through 4-H and begin raising sheep when he was eight. Eric has 60 registered Dorset ewes.

"I like the Dorset breed because they are easy to keep, hardy, and not much maintenance. I think they're the prettiest breed," Eric said.

After graduation, Eric plans to go into ag business and hopefully attend Penn State University.

Billy Leib, 17, is the son of Bob and Susan Leib of Mechanicsburg.

Billy's parents started a flock of sheep under the name Shepherd's Crook before he was born. As a toddler, Billy remembers shows being lots of fun. Billy now owns 25 Rambouillets, seven Southdowns, five Oxfords, and 30 Boer goats.

In addition to winning the Top Gun Award, Billy also won showmanship in his class at the national show.

At Cumberland Valley High School, Billy is a senior FFA

member and both chapter and Cumberland-Dauphin-Perry Area FFA present.

He plans to study at Scottsdale Culinary Institute in Arizona.

"I've always been into cooking," said Billy, who thinks he can promote lamb cooking when he becomes a chef.

Jacob Gargas, 17, is the son of Paul and Eileen Gargas of Telford. Jacob and his brother Issac raise Merinos and Oxfords. They have 50-60 head.

Jacob is a junior at Christopher Dock High School. He isn't sure what he will do have high school graduation except he is certain:

"I'll always keep sheep."

At 14-years-of-age, Kyle Fleener is the youngest winner. He grew up in a well-known sheep family who operate BluAcres in Robesonia. His Brubaker grandparents raised Hampshires and now his parents Sarah and Tim Fleener breed sheep. They have 100 head in all. Kyle owns about 10 of his own.

Kyle said that it's been rewarding to accomplish his goals. "I wanted to show the champion or reserve at the Pennsylvania Farm Show and I got a reserve in 1995. When I went to the All American

last year, I decided I really wanted the Top Gun Award and now I got that," Kyle said.

Kyle recently began showing cattle and showed at the Shorthorn Junior National Show.

"Cattle are a lot easier to work with than sheep. They get calm and tame easier," Kyle said.

A ninth grader at Eastern Lebanon County High School, Kyle plans to go to college. He hopes to become a realtor and auctioneer.

"I'm having fun going to shows, but it's difficult to get enough people to help show a flock," Kyle said.



Top Gun Award winners included these contestants, from left, Kyle Fleener, Jesse Rohrer, Billy Leib, Jacob Gargas, and Eric Cowden.