

Showy Ewes And Fashions Spotlight Sheep Industry

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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)
 — "Ever since I was little, I've been entering this," said Angela Bowes of the Keystone Lead Line held annually in the Farm Show Complex during Keystone International Livestock Exposition (KILE).

But it wasn't until this year that Angela clinched the highly coveted trophy—first place win in the senior division.

Readers will probably recognize the 20-year-old under the name of Angela Lovell, former Lycoming dairy princess and oft-time winner of famed Dorset and Suffolk sheep.

Married in August, Angela lives in Williamsport and found time to stitch her own stylish wool outfit. Her 100 percent wool textured dress in a cream color showed off the wonderful new look of light-weight wool. She wore a fully-lined brocade jacket with a stand-up collar.

Taking second place in the senior division was Hilda Mitchell of Skaneateles, N.Y. The 19-year-old wore a black-crop style jacket and wrapped-around skirt that she sewed and crewel embroidered. She spun and dyed the wool used for the embroidery.

In addition to raising purebred Oxford and Romney sheep, she is vice president of the New York State Sheep Producers. Hilda is a third year student at Cornell University. She has spent a semester studying abroad in New Zealand. Hilda's major is fiber science and she hopes to pursue a career in the sheep and wool industry.

Third-place senior winner was Robin Harkins of Forest Hill, Md. The 15-year-old sewed her two-piece tailored outfit trimmed with tan ultra suede.

Robin is vice president of the Harford County Livestock Club and treasurer of the North Harford FFA.

Twenty-three contestants participated in the event organized by Joan Miller of Wolmesdorf.

In the intermediate division, Emmalynn Little of Harford County, Md., took first place. Emmalynn made a three-piece outfit with coordinating fabric. The coat, vest, and slacks were embellished with applique and embroidered blanket stitching.

Emmalynn led a registered four-horned Jacob yearling ewe.

Second-place in the intermediate division went to Amanda Miller of Womelsdorf. She wore a semi-fitted fully-lined wool teal jacket and skirt. She led a South-down ewe on which she tied a matching teal scarf around her neck. Amanda wins numerous awards at local and state levels for her breeding flock and for market lamb projects.

Morgan Firestone took third-place in the intermediate division. She wore a two-toned black sweater vest made of wool and mohair and a stitched-down pleated skirt.

Morgan raises both Hampshires and Soutdowns and is a member of the 4-H Livestock Junior Judging team.

In the junior division, Laura Hunter took first place. She wore a blue jumper coordinated with wool accessories she made herself. This



Lead Line judges, from left, are Ron Guenther, Holly Waldron, and Wendy Nemeec.

included a plaid bookbag, head-band, and a matching blue halter for her Dorset yearling ewe.

Holly Lynn Phipps took second place. The 11-year-old from Harford Co., Md., wore a A-line skirt that she had sewn.

Third place went to Kelsey Bowman of Drumore, Lancaster County. She wore a fuchsia jacket coordinated with a swishing plum-striped skirt. The 11-year-old led a natural colored ewe decorated with matching plaid bows to complement Kelsey's outfit.

The purpose of the lead line is to present a class of yearling ewes in a most attractive manner to give spectators an opportunity to see the best of the sheep industry and to promote the varied and beautiful wools available for today's fashion-conscious consumers.

The impressive display of fashions is a crowd pleaser. The audience may sometimes be puzzled by the judges' decision, but judges base scores on a combination of the sheep's show characteristics and the lead person's ability to control and lead her sheep. A hard-to-control sheep can greatly alter the score of a potential winner.

Judges for the event were Ron Guenther, sheep judge, and Wendy Nemeec and Holly Wealdron, both of Connecticut.



During Keystone International Livestock Exposition, Ruth Hartman receives flowers and recognition for her years of devoted service in establishing the Shepherd's Lead Line competition.



Intermediate winners at the Keystone Shepherd's Lead Line included Morgan Firestone, left, third place, and Amanda Miller, second place.



From the left, Pennsylvania Livestock Association Secretary Beverly Gruber hands out educational packets to the many school teachers who brought classes on field trips to the state Farm Show Complex to see some of the four species of livestock exhibited at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition.



Holly Lynn Phipps



Robin Hawkins leads a Hampshire yearling ewe to place third in the senior division of the Keystone Shepherd's Lead Line.