

# Swine Grand Champion Proves That Four Years Of Showing Worth The Wait

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NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) — A Lebanon Fair Swine Show championship was only four years in the making for Richland resident Justin Fuls.

Last year his sister Megan garnered champion hog at the fair.

So it was only a matter of time for Justin, 16, son of Kevin and Karen Fuls, Richland, to claim the title.

On Monday Henry Halloway, show judge, knew Justin's 262-pound Hampshire/Yorkshire crossbred gilt would be the champ of the show ring. As crossbred champion, Halloway liked the gilt's leanness, soundness, a gilt that was "heavily muscled, with a big old rib, one that looks like she'll grow very fast," he told the exhibitors and those who watched the show.

Halloway said he looks for market hogs to be sound, with "a lot of rib and body value, and a big chest," he said, when picking a champion. Body value, Halloway noted, was key. If the hogs are wide, deep in the rib, and square, they can grow real fast and can fend off problems with diseases, he said.

When Halloway picked Justin's hog out of the heavyweight class 26 for overall, in competition with other breed winners that day, he noted that the hog is sound and

"will be impressive when it goes to the rail," Halloway said. "It will be very lean."

Justin, a junior at Conrad Weiser High School and nine-year member of the Lebanon County 4-H, said he obtained the gilt from Donny Sheiss in Indiana. This is Justin's first champion at the fair. He was showing market steers at the fair, also, and he attends state Farm Show.

This is only the fourth year Justin has been showing pigs. Justin noted that he walks the gilt about five laps or a quarter of a mile every day, when he can. Justin attributes the championship to genetic selection and care.

Reserve overall went to the crossbred reserve champion shown by Kurt Fleener, 9, son of Tim and Sarah Fleener, Robesonia.

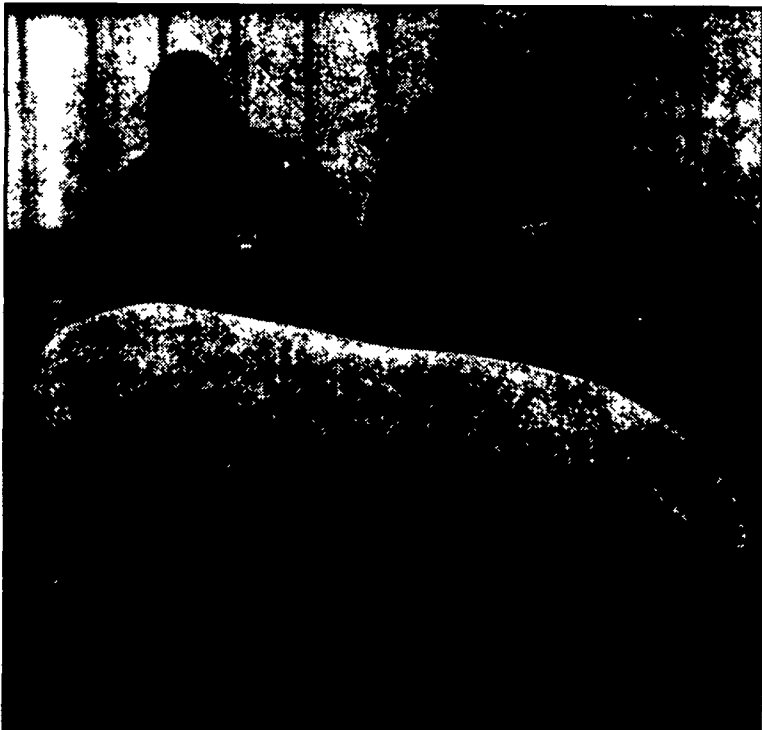
Kurt, in the fifth grade at Port Zeller, is in his first year of 4-H.

The reserve heavyweight, a 250-pound crossbred from class 22, was nicknamed "Salt," said Fleener, "because my other hog is named 'Pepper.'"

Halloway, show judge, liked the hog when he picked the gilt reserve crossbred because, he said, of its "powerful front end and its ability to get out with a smooth, easy stride." As overall champion, the gilt had a "free, easy stride, and would make a lean and heavily muscled carcass," said the judge.



Justin Fuls, left, won grand champion hog with his crossbred Monday afternoon at the Lebanon Fair. At right, Henry Halloway judged the show.



Lebanon Fair Landrace champion hog went to Trisha Berger, left. Henry Halloway was show judge.

The hog was purchased from Isler's of Ohio, located near Columbus, noted Kurt's dad, Tim Fleener.

At the breed contest, champion Duroc went to Kyle Fleener for his 235-pound hog. Reserve went to the 253-pound hog shown by Shane McKinney.

Lebanon Fair Landrace champion went to the 275-pound hog shown by Trisha Berger. Reserve went to the 264-pound hog also shown by Trisha.

Janine Winebark won Hampshire champion with her 256-pound hog. Reserve was awarded to her brother, Brandon, for his 247-pound hog.

Tabitha Kohr won Yorkshire champion with her 230-pound hog. Reserve went to the 226-pound hog shown by Jason Shirk.

There were a total of 85 exhibitors and 146 hogs. The show ring was located in the rabbit show area, similar to last year, to make room in the swine building for additional hogs. One show organizer said that the contest represented "one of the highest amount of pigs we've ever had."

Following is a list of show placings.

## LEBANON FAIR SWINE SHOW RESULTS

### CROSSBRED

Lightweight Class 1: 1. Aaron Bechtel. 2. Nathan Tice. 3. Samantha Atkins.

Class 2: 1. Jamie Rieker. 2. Lauren Brownlee. 3. Michelle Rieker.

Class 3: 1. Morgan Firestone. 2. Heath Spatz. 3. Hannah Artz.

Class 4: 1. Joseph Tice. 2. Gretchen Artz. 3. Ryan Spatz.

Class 5: 1. Nate Artz. 2. Gretchen Artz. 3. Jacob Spatz.

Class 6: 1. Natalie Wenger. 2. Matt Kleinfelder. 3. Wendy Atkins.

Lightweight Champion: Morgan Firestone. Reserve: Natalie Wenger.

Medium Weight Class 7: 1. Jake Mase. 2. Benjamin Wenger. 3. Jacob Spatz.

Class 8: 1. Justin Fuls. 2. Josh Martin. 3. Adam Hurst.

Class 9: 1. Joshua Seaman. 2. Joshua Seaman. 3. Josh Kleinfelder.

Class 10: 1. Shane McKinney. 2. Zach Breidenstine. 3. Nathan Maulfair.

Class 11: 1. Timothy Crouse. 2. Blaine

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Tabitha Kohr was Yorkshire champion at the Lebanon Fair. Henry Halloway was show judge.



Duroc champion of the Lebanon Fair went to Kyle Fleener, left. Henry Halloway was show judge.



Kurt Fleener, left, won reserve champion hog with his crossbred. Henry Halloway judged the show.