



There is some proselytizing going on at Calvary Bible Church and it isn't all church related. That seems to be the spot where a lot of kids have been corralled into sheep showing. Pictured are some of the exhibitors. From left are Larry and Tammy Musser with children Christine, 11; Rachel, 10; Matthew,

8; and Sarah. Judy Zurin and children Sarah, 18; Todd, 14; and Adam, 12. Ken and Linda Musser with children Kathy, 18; Michael, 16; Richard, 13; and Doug, 8. Ray and Becky Peters with son Radell, 15.

Sheep Exhibitors Increase Through Proselytization

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ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — When Sarah Zurin bought her first market lamb, her cousin laughed at her.

Sheep, Kathy Musser believed, were dirty and smelly.

Soon Kathy was intrigued as she listened to Sarah and Radell Peters talk about the antics of their pet lambs. Every Sunday morning the two had some new adventure about sheep that they talked and laughed about.

"I'm going to show sheep, too," Kathy told Sarah one Sunday.

Sarah laughed. "Not you—you could never do it."

"She was just too neat, too particular," Sarah said of her reason for voicing that opinion about eight years ago.

"I was a real clean freak," Kathy conceded. "But after Sarah laughed at me, I became really determined to show her that I could do it."

And Kathy did.

"She beat me in novice, showmanship, and leadline," Sarah said of the friendly but intense competition that was played out in the show ring during recent years.

The camaraderie among Sarah, Kathy, and Radell who attended the same church soon attracted more people to join their ranks. Now additional family members, cousins, and friends of this core group show sheep. Most live in the

Elizabethtown—Mt. Joy area, so they all compete at the Elizabethtown Fair. At last week's fair, more than 200 exhibitors entered the competition, up from the show's original seven when the competition first began. Many of the participants are the direct result of Sarah's, Kathy's, and Radell's proselytization.

"Our youth group is really a 'tight' bunch of kids. If they don't show (sheep), they always ask us about it," Radell said. "Some of the others would like to show but they don't have a place to raise sheep."

Radell, his parents, Ray and Becky, and older brother are considered the first ones to become interested in sheep. Ray is a 4-H Woolies Club leader. Radell raises about 20 head of Dorsets, cross-breds, and a few Jacob sheep.

He said, "It's fun competing. We encourage each other. You know if you lose one time, you may win the next time."

Sarah is now 18 and a freshman at Grace College in Indiana, where she is studying to become a missionary. Sarah recalls that as an eight-year-old she was totally overwhelmed but excited by all the things that needed to be done to show sheep.

Her first lamb named Max became so tame that he didn't require a halter, but simply followed Sarah around. When Max was ready to show, he needed his wool clipped.

"I hated the way he looked after we took his wool off," Sarah said.

Sarah said that lead line competition is always a highlight for her. She had a few impressive wins, but she said, "Although I didn't always place very well, the fun of doing it made up for it."

Sheep competition was limited for Sarah this year. She headed off for college in the midst of Elizabethtown Fair. As last year's Manheim Community Farm Show Queen, Sarah will return to the Manheim Fair Show in October to crown the new fair queen.

Over the years, Sarah and her brothers Todd, 14, and Adam, 12, have shown sheep, Holstein feeder steers, and pigs. An older brother Ben does not show. They live on a 30-acre farm in Mt. Joy with their parents Gary and Judy Zurin. Judy is a dairy beef leader and helps at the Elizabethtown Fair. Gary is a sheep leader.

Although Sarah can no longer participate in sheep competition, she eagerly awaits news via her brother who continue to show. Todd just returned from a mission's trip to Ecuador. He said, "The sheep looked really bad there, but you can buy lots of wool clothing really cheap."

Adam likes showmanship best. Although he is only 11 years old, Adam has taken first place in 11 competitions so far.

With the financial earnings from some of her sheep placings, Kathy,

18, will head off to Word of Life on Sept. 18. Kathy's favorite activity is lead line, in which the exhibitor models a wool outfit and is judged for poise, control, and the lamb's cleanliness. Kathy has won numerous lead line competitions throughout the county and at Keystone International Livestock

Exhibition.

Kathy and her brothers Michael, 16; Richard, 13; and Doug, 8; have 10 head that they raise on their parents' Ken and Linda's farm in Mt. Joy. In his first year of showing, Doug's lamb was selected as the reserve grand champion market lamb at the E-town Fair.



Don Musser, sales manager for Engle Publishing Company, pays \$600 for the reserve grand champion lamb shown by Doug Musser. At left is Elizabethtown Fair Queen Laura Miller.