

Kids Korner

'Wondeweful' Things Comprise Essay Contest For Lamb Exhibitor

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff
BERNVILLE (Berks Co.) —
Carrie Hartman is only 10 years old. But already she's had some amazing experiences.

She won a pair of purebred lambs for an essay she wrote. Someone wrote a poem about her that was published in a book, she has been paid for modeling, and she has collected more than 100 ribbons for showing sheep and cattle.

The daughter of Carol and Michael Hartman, Carrie has two brothers, John, 15, and Brian, 16. On their 85-acre Bernville farm,

the Hartmans raise 22 sheep and a purebred Simmental beef herd. The sheep breeds include Southdowns, Suffolk, a Dorset, and crossbred market lambs.

Carrie explained that Del Val College 4-H Collegiate Club sponsored the essay contest that she won. Seven counties were eligible to compete. Out of 15 entries, Carrie won. Her brother John came in a close second.

Carrie wrote about life on the farm and her experiences in raising sheep, and as a member of the Berks County Sheep and Lamb Club, and the Beef Club.

Carrie wrote: *While raising the*



The Hartman family includes parents Carol and Michael Hartman, Carrie, 10; John, 15; and Brian, 16.



In an essay contest sponsored by Del Val College 4-H Collegiate Club for 4-H'ers in seven counties, 10-year-old Carrie Hartman won the purebred Southdown ram and ewe lamb from Kwisneck's Scenic View Farms in Clarksburg.

Southdown ewe and ram lambs, I hope to learn how to properly feed this breed of sheep. I know that Southdown lambs grow rapidly and they should be managed differently than my Suffolk sheep. I am interested in seeing how much they eat compared to my Suffolks. I'm also interested in seeing how fast my lambs can grow while on pasture.

"I also will learn how to set up a good breeding program so that I can have lots of Southdowns to show and sell in the future."

Carrie continued to write about the care of the lambs' hooves, vaccination and health care, and the importance of shearing lambs properly.

She ended by writing: *"One of the most important things I can do while showing is to educate the public about all the good features of Southdown lambs. Maybe some day I will be the Berks County Lamb and Wool Queen. I would like people to know how warm wool can be.*

"My lambs and I also would like to participate in the Mardi Gras. We like to have fun and play together."

The purebred Southdown ram and ewe lamb came from Kwisneck's Scenic View Farms in Clarksburg. The donated lambs came with a stipulation: Carrie had to sign a contract promising to show the pair at least at two shows

and to have the ewe bred to the ram that she won and later to another registered Southdown ram.

When Carrie heard that she won, her mom said, "Carrie was bouncing all over the place and her daddy went into shock."

"The Southdown breed is one of the most popular breeds for 4-H'ers to show," Carrie's dad said.

That means there is stiff competition in the show ring.

The judges' decisions are not always what the Hartman family believes are fair, but as her dad said, "The kids need to learn the hard facts of reality when young. Life isn't always fair."

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On their 85-acre Bernville farm, the Hartman siblings raise a purebred Simmental beef herd in addition to sheep.



Although only 10 years old, Carrie has won the Berks County Junior Showman Award trophy and garnered about 100 ribbons from the shows she has participated in.