

Pennsylvania Winners In Make-It-With-Wool Contest Advance To National Competition

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— When she returned home to Schwenksville, Cayce Bean, the senior winner in the "Make It Yourself With Wool (MIYWW), Pennsylvania Competition, was confronted with a very tricky decision — represent her state at Nationals, or, on the same dates, join her senior class for its trip.

Bean made a difficult choice and e-mailed MIYWW state director, Jodell Antram she was opting out of MIYWW. Instead she would make memories with classmates at Christopher Dock High School in Lansdale.

Sarah Flannery, Sipesville, on the other hand, would have been Bean's only competitor in the senior division when the event, on Oct. 16, was held at Boscov's in the Galleria Mall.

Flannery was registered, but ended up unable to change a job schedule at Hoss's Restaurant so she could attend the event.

Antram and fellow state director, Peggy Black, ultimately resolved the dilemma by consulting with officials at a higher level of authority. If Flannery's garment could survive official judging, done at a separate time, they said instead of Bean, the 17-year-old could represent Pennsylvania in Denver, Colorado, January 2000.

Her trip finances, however would have to be paid by funds from a source other than MIYWW.

Flannery's 100-percent wool crepe suit is fully lined with Bemburg rayon.

She used quick tailoring methods for the outfit which has a buttonless jacket that falls to the hip. Fully-lined, the jacket has a collar, shoulder pads, and is slightly fitted.

The short-sleeved, fully-lined dress reaches mid-knee, has a back slit and invisible zipper, shoulder pads, and darts.

Bean's classic-styled wool jacket of black wool gabardine was accented with piping trim and contrasting collars, cuffs and pocket flaps. It has a front button closure. The pleated skirt matches.

The teen-ager employed a wide variety of wool products for a uniquely-styled, eye-catching

vest by coordinating blue, double top-stitching to accent the hand-felted wool batts on the right side. On the left was faux chenille made from black gabardine and the same blue-black check as seen in the skirt.

Talk about sporty, Erin Stennett, Irwin, the junior winner who advances to Nationals representing the state's junior division, made a jacket out of 100-percent wool felt in deep purple. The seam detail in joining the abstract pattern pieces chocked up valuable sewing experience.

Made with a collar, collar band, dropped shoulders, insets, pockets, self fringe and long sleeves, the jacket and rosy-colored top under it made a nifty combination.

The long-sleeved, fitted top had a handpicked zipper and a mock neckline.

Stennett coordinated the slacks by using multi-colored woven wool and lining them. They closed with a front fly, had side pockets, back darts, and a waistband with carriers.

She complemented the smart ensemble with a lined purse suspended from the shoulder by a braided strap and added a scarf.

The field of adult competitors included Joan Klein, from Darlington, Pam Marburger from Espyville; and Victoria Nave, Horsham.

Klein, from Darlington, took first place, wrapped, she said in layers of her favorite fabric — wool.

Over the two-piece jacket and pants outfit in a deep burnt orange shade, she modeled a contrasting jacket of deep green that had a hood and drawstring waist. Its heavy-duty zipper was concealed by a fly-front closure.

It was double insulated with a self-quilted Theralam lining, had dropped shoulders, welt and flap pockets. Klein cuffed the sleeve openings for winter warmth.

She lined the sport jacket, gave it a one-button closure and a lazy lapel, over-the-shoulder yoking topped with epaulettes, dropped shoulders, and large patch pockets.

In back, she added a unique gathering of adjustments to the waist-length jacket for tabs and "D" rings.

The fully-lined slacks gave Klein a chance to continue the overall sporty theme with a style combination of jeans and cargo pants. The was reflected in the patch pockets on the side and back of the legs. She used flat-felled seams and included a fly front.

Preteen winner Kayla Huston from Beaver Falls used material she received at the 1998 MIYWW state competition to create a 100-percent Pendleton wool suit. The seventh grader at Highland Middle School in Beaver County used the brown and cream tweed for the jacket.

She employed the use of princess seams on the short-waisted jacket, added back darts and a front zipper.

Huston added darts to the solid brown pants for a great fit she said, and put in a side zipper.

The fashion show itself, was held on the Boscov's stage in the mall where all and sundry shoppers stopped to watch the modelers. Second level shoppers peered down from a large, fenced-in, rectangular opening with walkways.

"I was not crazy about modeling in a mall," admitted preteen contestant, Emily Starn from Beaver Falls. "There are so many people," she said.

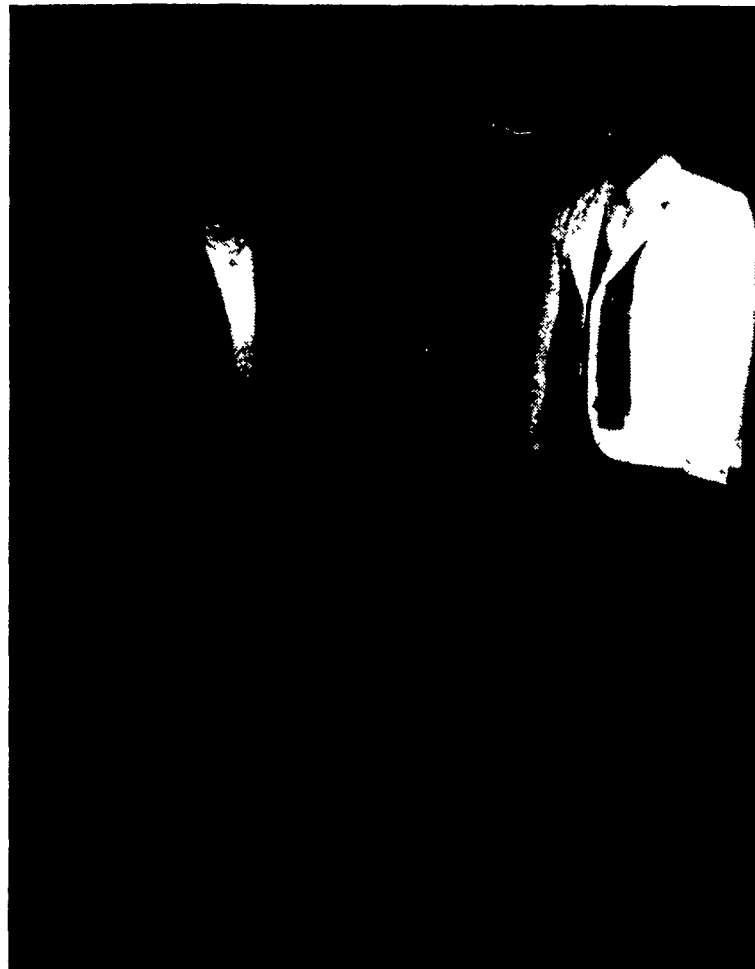
Joan Klein, a teacher of 45 sewing students, believes the young females gain invaluable lessons from being brave enough to go through with it.

"I believe in it," she said staunchly. "I think it builds self-esteem and exposure."

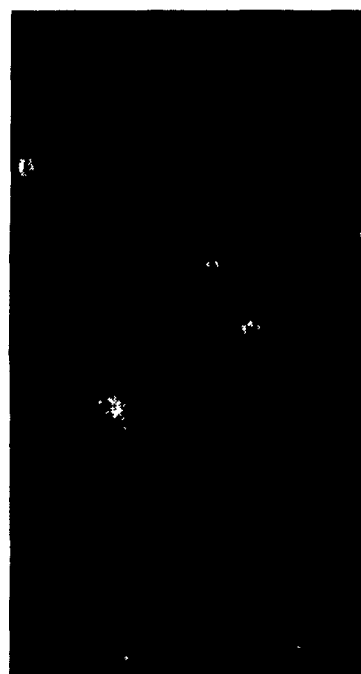
The MIYWW competitions are held to focus attention to the beauty and versatility of wool. The use of this fiber in sewing, knitting or crocheting fashionable garments is strongly encouraged.

Because wool is an absorbent fiber it helps regulate the body's temperature, keeping a layer of dry, insulating air next to the skin. It also works with warm temperatures, taking up perspiration, and making the body's natural cooling system work better.

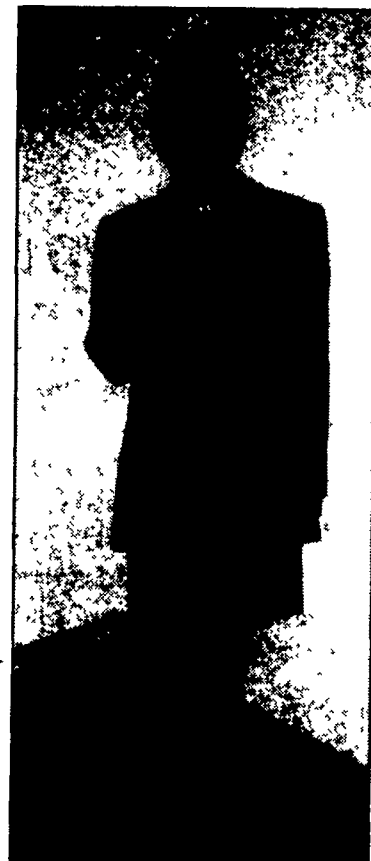
Wool, unlike other fibers, is the only one that naturally resists flaming. Instead it smolders rather than bursting into flame.



Three women competed in the state Make It Yourself With Wool contest. Joan Klein, Darlington, left, was the winner and will send a video to National judging competition. Seated is Victoria Nave, Horsham. Pam Marburger, Espyville, was runner-up.



Cayce Bean was the state winner in the Make It Yourself With Wool senior division. She later opted out because she cannot attend National competition next January in Denver. Bean is from Schwenksville.

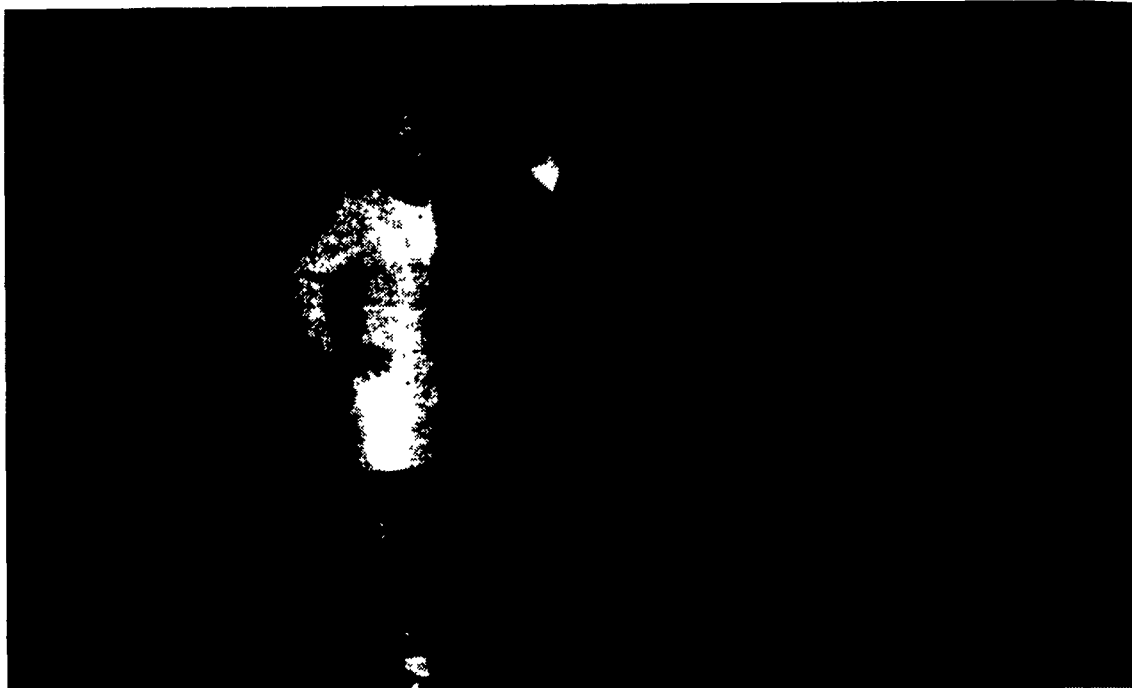


Sarah Flannery, Sipesville, will attend the National Make It Yourself With Wool Competition in Denver, Colorado, representing Pennsylvania in the senior division.

Artificial fibers often melt and stick to the skin when on fire.



Preteen contestants, from left, are Emily Starn, Beaver Falls; Kayla Huston, Beaver Falls, winner; Jaci Marburger, Espyville, runner-up, and Lauren Miller from Beaver Falls.



Pictured are the junior division contestants in the Make It Yourself With Wool Pennsylvania Competition. From left, Renee Marker, Garrett; Aleecha Jones, Loysburg; Megan Keller, New Paris; Erin Stennett, Irwin, first place; Lauren Howell, Enon Valley, runner-up; Ellen Nave, Horsham; and Amanda May, Industry.