

# Pennsylvania Teen Second Runner-Up In Make It Yourself With Wool National Competition

**Gay Brownlee**

**Somerset Co. Correspondent**

IRWIN (Somerset Co.)—A Westmoreland County teenager was second runner-up in the Make It Yourself With Wool (MIYWW) National Competition junior division title. The event was January 13-15.

Erin Stennett, 17, from Irwin, constructed a slacks, jacket, and top ensemble that won approval from the judges.

Last Oct. 16 in Johnstown, Stennett had won the junior division title in the Pennsylvania MIYWW Competition. The outfit was also a state-winning 4-H project.

"The National Wool Competition was more competitive than 4-H," she said. "They had some amazing outfits."

Sarah Flannery, Sipesville, Somerset County, represented the senior division, but did not win at Nationals.

Among her awards, Stennett received a sewing machine from Brother International; \$175 Savings Bond from Drake Livestock, Windsor, Color., a sewing basket from Prym-Dritz; and fabric from Woolrich, Inc.

MIYWW National Competition is held by the American Sheep Industry Women to promote wool for sewing, knitting and crocheting fashionable garments. Wool is a natural fiber that helps to regulate the body temperature in warm or cool times. It is versatile, wearable, durable and resists flaming naturally.

"This is my first year in Make It Yourself With Wool," said Stennett, who is a Norwin High School junior and 8-year member of the Hempfield Vogues 4-H Club.

"My one 4-H leader, Sue VanHorn, knew about it and told me I should enter," she said.

The pattern she selected, in reality, did not seem a difficulty project for Stennett's experience, despite its being considered advanced, she said.

"I don't think anything will be too hard anymore," she commented.

There was extensive seam detail involved to create the smartly-styled and unusual jacket. It called for small abstract patches to be cut out and pieced together.

In 100-percent wool felt, the dark purple jacket was patterned with a collar, collar band, dropped shoulders, insets, pockets, self-fringe, and long sleeves.

Side pockets, back darts, a waistband with carrier and front fly closure, were featured in the slacks.

The rosy-colored wool crepe top, she reported, tended to bubble up every time she tackled its different diagonal seams. Fitting it for her tall figure was achieved only by uninterrupted concentration. Still, to pin and repin the troublesome areas, she confessed the extra fingers of a 4-H leader were needed.

"I (usually) don't let anybody help me," she said. "If they try to talk to me I would rather be left alone. It's like 'Don't ask me questions, I'll ask you,'" she said. "I want to stay focused."

Besides a long, fringed scarf that utilized leftover slacks fabric, Stennett also designed a flat shoulder bag, braiding a strap



Erin Stennett holds one of four prizes she received as second runner-up at the Make It Yourself With Wool National Competition—fabric from Woolrich, Inc. She also won a sewing machine, savings bond and sewing basket.



Pictured January 15 at Make It Yourself With Wool National Competition in Denver, Colo., are Erin Stennett, left, and Sarah Flannery who represented the Pennsylvania entries. Stennett was second runner-up in the junior division. She is from Irwin, Westmoreland County. Flannery is from Sipesville, Somerset County.

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