

4-H Holds "Extravaganza" at Manheim Fairgrounds

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Recently area 4-H'ers converged on Manheim fairgrounds to showcase their livestock, cooking, sewing, weaving, braiding, drawing, or scrapbooking talents.

Lancaster livestock extension agent Chet Hughes estimates that participation in 4-H livestock clubs has remained consistent over the past five years. The swine club tops the list with 102 participants in the club, with more than 60 club members participating in the Extravaganza. The dairy beef show also grew from more than 20 4-H'ers last year to about 40 participants this year.

Cody Andrews, 9, son of Randy and Christine Andrews of Willow Street, began his career in the beef ring by taking home grand champion honors with "Buddy."

Even though the Andrews farm boasts hogs and chickens, "Cody decided he wanted to do it, so we decided, 'Let's try it,'" said Christine. "He was really dedicated, he walked and brushed Buddy almost every day. Buddy was also a nice calf to begin with and he didn't have any setbacks," added Christine.

This year marks the second year for the club, but the first year the animals were not only shown but also sold at the Extravaganza. Last year the animals were sold at the Manheim fair.

The 4-H goat show continues to increase in both number of participants and higher quality of animals.

"This is the first show I ever judged," said Deneise Goss, who owns "Red Gate Farms" in Palmyra with her husband. The couple not only owns a herd of dairy goats but producers their own ice cream, milk, and cheese for a growing market.

Although the business keeps Goss busy, she found time to judge the recent 4-H livestock dairy goats. "I liked it. I knew the kids, since our own kids used to be in 4-H. It was really nice to see how the kids have really progressed as far as the animals they have, and how to grow them out," said Goss. The meat goats, said Goss, have a good market outside of the shows, which makes them ideal for 4-H'ers.

Dr. Robert Herr judged both the dairy beef and market goat shows. "The Manheim area is getting a really good reputation in the market goat area," said



4-H Extravaganza sheep show winners: Sarah Boyd, 19, at left, got reserve grand champion market lamb placing while Tiffany Dean, 14, in the eighth grade at Lampeter Strasburg, won grand champion honors with "Keanu." Jimmy Zimmerman, 16, and "Jessi" won the supreme champion ewe spot.

Goss. "There are good competitive goats here that will make super prospects to develop out." Lancaster, said Herr, is a leading area for meat goats on the Eastern seaboard.

Nathan Eisenhower, 17, took "Samantha" and "Bubba" to supreme champion honors for both the doe and buck divisions in the breeding goat show. Eisenhower picked the animals from the more than 70 goats at his home farm.

The 4-H fair was only the beginning of the fair circuit for Eisenhower, who will take his animals to Manheim, Elizabethtown, and Ephrata fairs. He also plans to attend the farm show, where he is an 8-year veteran.

Rachel Keener, from Mount Joy, picked her goat from six goats on her home farm. This winner is one of twins, both of which Keener took to the show ring in Manheim. She has three years of experience in showing goats.

Penn State shepherd Dick Kuzemchak picked the winners of the sheep shows.

Tiffany Dean, 14, picked "Keanu," named for the Hollywood star, because of his stylish, large frame out of her eight sheep at home. "Keanu" rose to the top for Dean as he won grand champion honors in the market lamb competition. Dean, who has six years of experience in 4-H, looks forward to competing again next year.

The reserve grand champion spot went to Sarah Boyd, 19, and "Dino." A sophomore elementary education major at Millersville University, Boyd participated in her eleventh and last year in 4-H.

Jimmy Zimmerman, 16, a junior at Ephrata High School, won the supreme champion spot in the breeding sheep show with "Jessi." Zimmerman, who has seven years of experience in 4-H, is looking forward to participating next year also.

Jessica Schmidt, a recent graduate of Solanco High School, won champion showman. Schmidt plans to attend Penn State York campus to study animal science. Tiffany Dean was reserve showman in the competition.



A senior at Elizabethtown this year, Nathan Eisenhower, 17, took "Samantha" and "Bubba" to supreme champion honors for both the doe and buck divisions in the breeding goat show.

Bubba proved to be a drawing card during the Extravaganza. "While we were washing him, people kept coming up to us and saying, 'Is that a baby bison?'" said Eisenhower. Mandy Grube, left, with Samantha, also took home several goat show honors in the 4-H event.



Jessica Schmidt, 18, won champion showman in the sheep ring, with Tiffany Dean reserve showman.



During his first stint in the beef ring Cody Andrews, grand champion dairy beef winner, learned many valuable lessons about showing cattle. Perhaps the most unforgettable lesson Andrews took away from the experience is the proper height to hang the ribbon above the calf in the fair stall. "Buddy" ate the ribbons off his new grand champion rosette.



Rachel Keener, left, took home supreme champion market goat honors and Nathan Eisenhower the reserve champion market goat placing. According to judge Herr a brightly-colored goat such as Keener's animal will catch the eye of goat buyers and thus be easily marketable.

4 CHEERS FOR 4H