

'Ewes' Flaunt Their Best Looking Good Is Their Specialty

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Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Ewes in an array of white and natural-colored hues were combed to look their woolly best for the Keystone International Livestock Expo (KILE) Leadline Competition, Harrisburg, last Saturday.

Leading the showy ewes were girls between the ages of 10-18. They, too, were dressed in their woolly best with fashionable outfits designed to portray the beauty and versatility of the natural fiber — wool.

Not only were the girls and their ewes judged on appearance but also on the contestant's skill in leading a sheep around the show ring. Stubborn, unpredictable, and frisky ewes add to the difficulty of the contestants maintaining poise and control under the watchful eyes of three judges and the audience.

Many of the contestants have competed at local and regional shows. Some have placed at the annual KILE competition in other years. Despite past successes, the contestants are never quite sure how their sheep will react and how judges will interpret their abilities to maintain control under pressure.

This year's senior division winners went to Emma Little, first; Bethany Tuhacek, second; and Shelby Harrison, third.

Emma made a three-piece coordinated wool ensemble to take first place. Her stunning outfit featured hand-dyed wool pieces applied with a wool blanket stitch on her fully-lined jacket and slacks.

Only 14, Emma has placed first for three out of the six years at competition. Emma has been sewing since second grade.

Accompanying Emma was Daphne, a registered Cotswold yearling ewe. Emma said that the Cotswold is an ancient breed dating back to the Roman Empire. Each year, her Cotswold produces 10-12 inches of lustrous curly wool.

In addition to the Cotswold, Emma raises Jacob and Border Leicester sheep on her parents' Harford, Md. farm.

Emma is a sophomore at Harford Technical High School studying agricultural science in preparation for a career in large animal science.

She is president of the Harford County 4-H Shepherds Club, a member of the 4-H Livestock Club, an FFA member, and is the Maryland Lamb and Wool Princess.

Bethany Tuhacek wore a black worsted wool jacket and pants outfit, which she made to take second place in the senior division.

The 18-year-old led Maggie, her Dorset ewe, wearing a leopard-print scarf that matched Bethany's sleeveless fitted top.

On her parents' Harleysville farm in Montgomery County, Bethany raises Dorsets for breeding and market lambs and natural colored crossbreds for wool. She also has a belted Galloway heifer and market hogs.

Bethany is a freshman at Delaware Valley College, majoring in large animal sciences. She is a member of the Block and Bridle Club, animal science club, and a community service club. Bethany will attend the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta.

For a third-place win, Shelby Harrison, Saegertown, Crawford County, led a Tunis ewe. The natural brown shading of the Tunis coordinated with Shelby's dark brown jacket trimmed in herringbone tweed cuffs and collar with matching skirt.

Shelby's jacket was accented with a sheep pin that she made from wool, hand spun using a drop spindle.

Shelby, 14, raises market lambs and is a six year member of the Coon's Corners 4-H Club, where she is secretary and news reporter. She is also a 4-H ambassador and a freshman at Cambridge Springs High

School.

She enjoys art, sports, hunting, hiking, and haying. She plans to pursue animal and wildlife studies with a possible career as a veterinarian.

In the intermediate division, Laura Hunter, Stockton, N.Y., placed first; Megan Van Wie, Clayton, N.Y., placed second; and Alice Phillips, Perkiomenville, placed third.

Twelve-year-old Laura Hunter modeled a navy blue doubled-breasted wool blazer and matching tailored pants. She led a yearling ewe from her flock of Polled Dorsets.

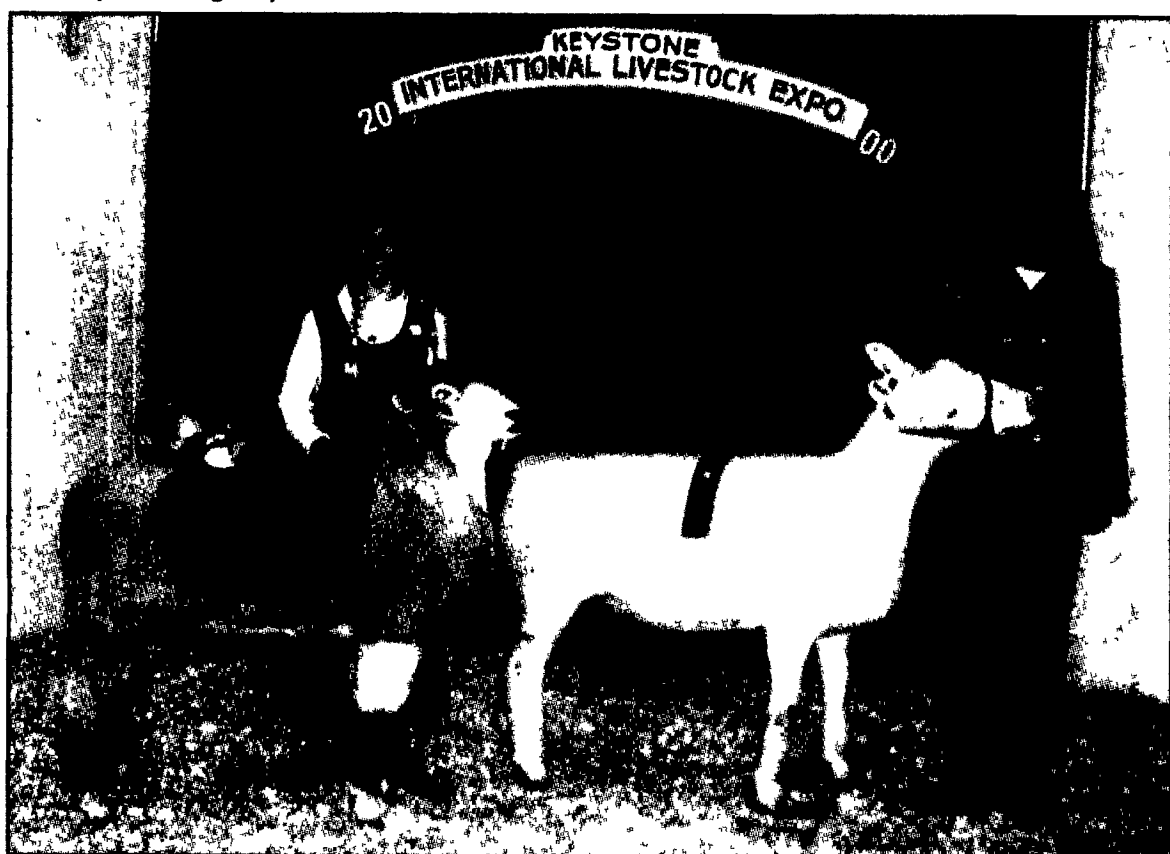
Laura is in seventh grade at Cassadaga Valley High School, where she plays volleyball and basketball, is a member of chorus, and plays the French horn in the Junior Band.

She is active in church and enjoys showing horses, downhill skiing, reading, and just being a

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Junior champion Lindsey Beatty captured points for her flattering wool outfit and for maintaining poise and control while leading Vanna, a Polled Dorset yearling ewe around the show ring.



In the intermediate division, Laura Hunter, right, led a Polled Dorset yearling ewe to show the attractiveness of the breed, and modeled a wool pants suit to show the classiness of wearable wool. Third-place winner Alice Phillips, Perkiomenville, led a Corriedale yearling ewe outfitted with a saddle and carrying Alice's doll dressed in a matching outfit.



Emma Little, right, made a three-piece wool ensemble and led a registered Cotswold yearling ewe, for first place in senior competition at the KILE leadline. Bethany Tuhacek, left, and her Dorset ewe Maggie placed second.



Not everyone comes to show animals, some like the Maleski family come to buy. From left, Paul, 6; Angela, 13; Cecilia, 8; Jacinta, 11; and Loretta, 9; compare the different breeds and decide they want to purchase a Suffolk. Their grandpa Matthew Maleski, Carbon County, brought the children to KILE because it's a great place to see the best of each breed.