

Once State 4-H Champion Team Member, Now Grand Individual At KILE Stockman's Contest



Joe Emenheiser, left, was grand champion individual at the Keystone Stockman's Contest at KILE. At right is Laura Galante, who placed third. Missing from photo: second place individual Nicole Ross.
Photo by Andy Andrews

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Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Strength in livestock judging.

Knowing critical agribusiness management points.

Those two made for a championship strategy for the top overall individual early this week during the Keystone Stockman's Contest at the Keystone International Livestock Expo (KILE).

Joe Emenheiser, 17, Felton, bested 229 other contestants during the 23rd annual contest at the state Farm Show Complex.

Joe said his strength was in livestock judging. He was a member of the county 4-H livestock judging team that won two years in a row and went to national competition.

"It's something I just wanted to try, and I did all right," he said.

Joe noted that he raises sheep but "I do better with the other two" (beef and swine), he noted.

The son of Ben and Sharon Emenheiser, Joe scored a grand total of 564 points on the contest,

which combines elements of a skillathon with management and other challenges. The contest is open to FFA members, 4-H members, and college students. The competition tests their live animal knowledge and verbal skills, providing students with valuable agri-industry related learning experiences.

Joe has a flock of 45 head of breeding sheep. He is involved in Boy Scouts and in his local church.

The eight-year York 4-H member is a senior at Red Lion High School. A member of the school's wrestling team, Joe is considering pursuing an animal science degree at Oklahoma State University.

Joe was also honored with the Pennsylvania Livestock Association (PLA) 4-H Boy Award during KILE opening ceremonies.

Second place went to Nicole Ross, Central FFA Team A, with 559 points. Third went to Laura Galante, Fairfax County Virginia 4-H Team, with a total of 548 points.

Placing beef in the contest was Cheryl Fairbairn, Chester County livestock agent. Ken Kephart, Penn State swine specialist, placed the swine class. Ron Miller, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture division chief, livestock and fairs, Bernville, place the sheep class.

Paul Craig, Dauphin County agent, placed the hay judging class. Joan Grim placed the meats identification class.

The contest included live-

Using Loaders, 3-Point Implements Requires Safety Focus

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Driving a tractor with a front-end loader or with three-point hitched implements takes special skill, and a farm safety expert in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences said children age 14 or older should have extensive training in using these add-ons before operating the tractor.

Farmers can assign appropriate farm tasks to their children using the newly developed North American Guidelines to Children's Agricultural Tasks (NAGCAT), said Dennis Murphy, professor of agricultural engineering.

"Children age 14 to 15 can operate tractors with front-end loaders and three-point attached equipment, but they should be limited to tractors between 20 and 70 horsepower," he said.

Murphy said children should know that tractors outfitted with front-end loaders can become less stable when driven with the loader raised. "It's probably a good idea to limit children to chores on relatively flat ground," Murphy suggested.

Before starting the job, Murphy recommends that the child and an adult check to see that all safety features are in place and that the work area has no hazards. "Be sure to check all hydraulic lines for leakage or wear," he said.

Murphy said younger children can operate a tractor with nonpowered trailed implements such as a cart or wagon. He suggests children age 12 to 13 should be limited to tractors of less than 70 horsepower. Children 14 and older can operate any tractor, as long as it is not an articulated tractor. Adults should supervise and check on a child's progress every 15 or 30 minutes.

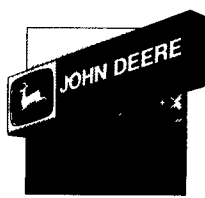
He also recommends that the child wear hearing protection, non-skid shoes, and long pants. In the summer, the child also should wear sunglasses, sunscreen, a long-sleeved shirt, and a wide-brimmed hat. "If the child has long hair, it should be tied up," Murphy said. "The child should be able to hitch and unhitch the implement before using it."

When training a child for any tractor-related chore, adults should thoroughly demonstrate the task at the work site at least five times and supervise the child closely.

"When operating a tractor with any trailed implement or front-end loader, a child should have a cell phone, CB radio, or walkie-talkie to allow communication with a parent or adult supervisor," he said.

Penn State offers a free publication, "Children and Safety on the Farm," which shows parents and others how to make farms safer for children. Single copies are available free of charge by contacting your county Penn State Cooperative Extension office, or by calling the College of Agricultural Sciences Publications Distribution Center at (814) 865-6713.

Parents or other professionals interested in the NAGCAT guidelines can buy booklets of six to 10 posters covering similar agricultural tasks or a professional resource manual by calling Gempler's, a Belleville, Wis., safety supply company, at (800) 382-8473 or by visiting the firm's Website, <http://www.gemplers.com>.



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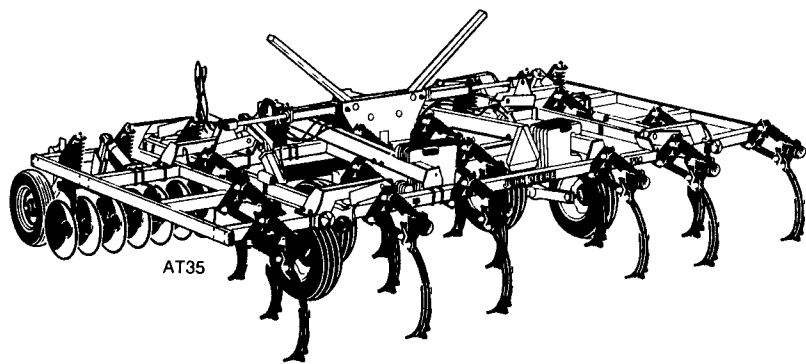
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