

# Somerset County Lamb And Wool Queen Conquers Shyness To Promote Industry

**GAY BROWNLEE**  
Somerset Co. Correspondent  
GLENCOE (Somerset Co.) — Deidra Smith, the Somerset County Lamb and Wool Queen, believes when you discover a weakness in yourself the only way to deal with it, is turn it into a strength.

That is how she is conquering the nerves of speaking in public and doing a 360-degree rotation from once being a bashful and shy child. Inheriting the responsibilities of her title pushed her toward changing. In 4-H state events, instead of an area where she was totally competent — sewing — she opted, instead, to compete in public speaking, forcing personal growth through an experience guaranteed to refine communication skills.

sponding secretary of 4-H County Council. Thoughtful friends who wanted to see young Smith succeed, after the initial painful experience, offered helpful tips and were encouraging, she said. The next time, Smith went into the show ring as a much more confident youngster, she was decked out in leather shoes, jeans, and a button shirt tucked in.

"I really grew in the knowledge of lambs and learned how to pick a market lamb and judge its value as a market animal," Smith said.

At 6:30 a.m., in the Northampton Township log house where she lives, Smith is preparing for classes at the Berlin-Brothersvalley High School where she is a junior. That early in the day she

Limousin cattle and two goats belonging to Smith's sister, Kelsie, a 7th grader.

A favorite family outing, the daughter says is an afternoon spent with dad, mom and her sister on a 10-mile ride with the horses.

"I am a very hard worker and set goals," Smith says about herself. "I like to associate with people who have a lot in common with me, although, not necessarily my views."

She is excited about participating in the Make It Yourself With Wool Pennsylvania Competition. Smith is a junior division entrant and anticipates meeting new people from around the state. The event is in the meeting rooms at Boscovs department store. Following the lunch break, contestants will model their fashions in a public fashion show on the Boscovs stage, the Galleria Mall in Johnstown, Cambria County.

Unlike making a public address, which puts butterflies in her stomach, Smith says she enjoys modeling. "Speaking in front of a crowd bothers me, but not modeling," she reports.

In addition to 4-H commitments, Smith considers lamb and wool promotions a priority over sports and other activities.

Smith wants to do whatever she can do to awaken public knowledge and awareness about the value and importance of lamb and wool products. She said that most people are ignorant that many small items they use everyday have been derived from sheep.

Lamb is tasty, if you purchase the tender cuts from a reliable grocer or trusted market or person who raises lambs, because the meat is very different tasting than mutton imported from other countries.

Smith recommends the following simple recipe that is one of her own favorites.



Deidra Smith, the Somerset County Lamb and Wool Queen, developed an affinity for lambs at an early age. Since then she has learned to pick a market lamb and judge its value as a market animal.

**LAMB SPREAD**  
Saute one pound ground lamb until done.  
Blend together with 12-ounces cream cheese and 2 tablespoons cocktail sauce.  
Chill. Garnish with fresh dill weed or parsley.  
Serve with crackers.

## Conservancy To Host Fall Hike

BRICKERVILLE (Lancaster Co.) Join naturalist Joy Howell on a two hour hike through Rannels-Kettle Run Nature Preserve to experience The Conservancy's northern most property in Lancaster County. This 82-acre preserve, situated just northwest of Brickerville and adjoining State Game Lands #156, was gifted to the non-prof-

it conservation organization in 1998 by the Donald Rannels family. The Horseshoe Trail runs along the top of the property, from where there are panoramic views to the south overlooking Rapho and Elizabeth Townships agricultural lands. There is a breathtaking vista of Schaefferstown in Lebanon County looking north. At the

preserves southern boundary, a small tributary to Hammer Creek, known as Kettle Run, meanders through the woods.

At the Rannels-Kettle Run Nature Preserve, visitors will find a fine example of a mixed hardwood forest consisting of American beech, tulip poplar, black birch, and oaks with underlying mountain laurel, witch hazel, spicebush and viburnum. Bird life includes wood thrush, veery, scarlet tanagers and ovenbirds. The hike is scheduled for Saturday, November 4 beginning at 9:00 a.m. The cost of the event is \$5 per person, however it is free to Conservancy members. All participants must pre-register with The Conservancy by Wednesday, November 1 by calling (717) 392-7891. The hike will be limited to 30 attendees.

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