

Champion and first place Rambouillet flock at NAILE. From left, Doris Powell, holding banners; Dave Pinckney; Greg Strausbaugh; Lorrie Moore; Claudette Choma; Ken Moore, holding banner; and Krys Schrom. The flock, from left, includes Powell 9951, the top-placing fall ewe lamb at NAILE, Big E, and KILE; Powell 9950, a fall ewe lamb, the 2000 NAILE champion Rambouillet ewe; Powell 9920 and Powell 9919, the 2000 NAILE first place pair of yearling ewes; and Powell 9955, champion Rambouillet ram and supreme champion ram at the 2000 NAILE.

Powell Rambouillets Garner Top Honors In Show Ring

CAROLYN N. MOYER Bradford Co. Correspondent

WINDHAM CENTER (Bradford Co.) — When it comes to picking and showing award winning sheep, Doris Powell and Greg Strausbaugh usually agree.

But the 2000 show year turned into a contest that will long be remembered.

Powell and Strausbaugh operate Powell Rambouillets in northern Bradford County. Powell, who has had sheep for as long as she can remember, and Strausbaugh, who became inter-

Penn State, make showing sheep their hobby, following the tanbark trail to several shows every

Early in the year 2000, Powell and Strausbaugh were looking over their fall ram lambs trying to pick which one they would

"We narrowed it down to a pair of ram lambs. I said I'm going to show this one and he said I choose this one," said

So the competition began.

The first show was the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival in May. Strausbaugh's ram won,

capturing grand champion honors. From there they attended the Harford Fair in Susquehanna County. At that show, Powell's ram won top honors.

'We were even at that time," said Strausbaugh with a laugh.

They again packed the show string to head to the Big E in Springfield, Mass., where Powell's ram again garnered champion honors while Strausbaugh's ram wore the reserve champion banner.

The judges' decision at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition (KILE) again put Powell's ram over Strausbaugh's ram.

She thought she had the battle won," said Strausbaugh, but then we went to Louisville,

In Louisville, Strausbaugh figures that the score was evened out as his ram was named champion Rambouillet ram. But to add to the glory of

Supreme champion ram at the 2000 North American International Livestock Expo (NAILE). From left, Doris Powell, holding banner; bill Turnquist, presenting award; and Greg Strausbaugh, holding ram. "I think a lot of time there are the show, Strausbaugh's ram. Powell 9955, was chosen as the

over 19 breeds of sheep. "When I won supreme champion, I figure I won the whole competition," said Strausbaugh. "It's funny, because people were beginning to watch the Rambouillet show to see which ram would win."

supreme champion of the show

Besides being a great honor for the family, having a Rambouillet ram chosen as supreme champion was also a history making event.

"This is the first time a Rambouillet ram has ever won the supreme champion award at Louisville. Normally a meat breed of sheep will win more often that a wool breed," said Powell. "We were standing there and they were looking at him and we thought that it was really nice that they were considering a Rambouillet. And then they picked him. I was shocked!'

"We were shocked and happy at the same time," said Strausbaugh.

a lot of good wool breed sheep out there that sometimes get overlooked. It's a pleasant surprise when the judges do pick one," Powell said.

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The Louisville supreme champion has recently been sold to Vern and Krys Schrom of Amenia, N.Y., who are just getting started in the sheep busi-

"When you're just getting started," noted Strausbaugh, "buy the best ram and the best brood ewes you can afford. You need to start with good breeding stock.'

Although the sale of the ram broke up their undefeated fall ram lamb team, the family is happy to sell breeding rams from their outstanding Rambouillet flock when they have the chance. They also keep their eyes open for new sires for their

"We're always looking for a good stud ram," said Straus-baugh. "We went for four years before we could find a ram that we were satisfied with a while ago. We have four rams right now that we're using. We try to keep a good ram base so we don't get caught again."

Right now they run 100 total sheep with about 50 brood ewes. Their Rambouillets are mostly horned, but they do have a few polled sheep to market to people who prefer the polled rams. The family also keeps about 10 Shropshire ewes.

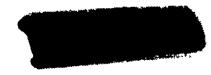
Right now, lambs are already

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