

Pa. Girls Place In Horse Judging Contest

MECHANICSBURG (Cumberland Co.) — Three girls from the Pennsylvania Paint Horse Club (PPHC) were awarded sixth place overall in the recent youth horse judging team competition at the 2001 American Paint Horse Association (APHA) World Championship Show in Fort Worth, Texas.

In addition, the team placed third in performance judging and fifth in the oral reasons category of the contest. More than 400 youth from around the nation participated in the event, conducted Friday, June 29 at the Will Rogers Memorial Center.

Heidi Evelhoch of Shippensburg, Mary Strasbaugh of Mechanicsburg, and Michelle Thomas of Carlisle are active in the

Cumberland County 4-H light horse and pony club as well as the PPHC, and competed in the senior American Junior Paint Horse division.

According to the National Horse Judging Team Coaches Association, the event is the largest horse-judging contest for youth in the nation. Contestants between the ages of 9 and 19 involved in 4-H, FFA, and regional Paint horse clubs nationwide competed for coveted trophies, buckles, plaques and other prizes. The four-member teams competed in two divisions: junior (age 13 and under) and senior (ages 14 through 19). Contestants also received individual scores in each judging area.

The young judges competed

against one another in the event and were themselves judged by APHA officials on their ability to evaluate the equine classes. Scores given were based on how closely a student's placing of horses matched that of an APHA judging official's scoring. Students were also critiqued on the oral arguments they presented in support of their placement decisions.

Contestants were asked to judge four halter classes (2-year-old Geldings, 3-year-old Mares, Aged Geldings and Aged Mares) and four performance classes (Hunter Under Saddle, Hunter Hack, Western Pleasure and Western Riding). Participating in the event were 32 Paint horses.

Gelbvieh Juniors Elect Directors, New Leadership

RAPID CITY, S.D. — The American Gelbvieh Junior Association (AGJA) elected new directors during its annual meeting at the AGJA Black Hills Gold Classic in Rapid City, S.D., July 9-13. Directors are elected to serve two-year terms.

Re-elected to their second term on the AGJA board of directors were Justin Betzelberger of San Jose, Ill., and Matt Burbank of St. Catharine, Mo.

Newly elected directors include John Hadden of Gibson, Ga.; Dana Martin of Judsonia, Ark.; and Chris Tyndal of Athens, Ga.

The AGJA board of directors elected the following directors to serve as officers for the 2001-2002 term: Josh Phillips, Lathrop, Mo., president; Matt Burbank, Mo., vice president; Justin Betzelberger, Ill., vice president of leadership development; Kelly Leonhardt, Lake Preston, S.D., secretary; and Luke Burbank, St. Catharine, Mo., treasurer.

Also elected Sami Jo Frisby, Vinita, Okla., and Adam Verner, Rutledge, Ga., ex-officio.

Seeing Double At Reading Fair Sheep Show

Miller Takes Grand Ewe, Ram Placings; Rarick Takes Grand, Reserve Market Spot

MICHELLE RANCK-KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — "Two" was the number of the day for sheep exhibitors Amanda Miller and Shelby Rarick at Reading Fair's Sheep Show Tuesday.

Amanda, 16, enjoyed a big day at the fair with a double win in the breed show. Her homebred Southdown ewe and ram took home champion honors.

Shelby, 9, took home champion and reserve market lamb placings before her lambs topped the class in pair competition.

The daughter of Ronald and Joan Miller, Bernville, Amanda has been around sheep all of her life at the family's 50-sheep farm. A 4-H and FFA participant, she has nine years of experience in the show ring. Kutztown and Oley fairs, besides KILE and the Farm Show are all on the slate for her and her sheep.

Besides her grand champion wins in the breed show, she also exhibited the medium weight champion in the market lamb show and garnered grand champion showman honors in the showmanship classes and the reserve champion fitter placing.

Because of their endearing appearance and personality, Amanda admits being partial to the Southdown breed, which she says is "easy to handle."

She hopes to live on a farm in the future and plans to continue showing animals until she turns 21, the cutoff age for FFA participants. This fall she will be a sophomore at Tulpehocken High School.

Shelby Rarick, Fleetwood, also had a memorable day at the fair.

Two of Shelby's four sheep, "Bryant" and "Hops," named for his jumping ability ("we could hardly walk him when we first got him," said Rarick), were exhibited at Tuesday's show. The animals, according to judge Annette Lovell, "combined muscle and finish," said Lovell. "They were the most ideal market lambs here."



Shelby Rarick, 9, Fleetwood, took "Bryant" and "Hops" to grand and reserve champion market lamb placings before the two lambs won the pair competition.

The seven-month-old lambs, Hampshire-Suffolk crosses, will be sold at the end of the show season.

Shelby purchased the animals from a farm in York County.

Their training regimen included extensive walking each day in the Shelby's large backyard as Shelby and her friends practiced showing the animals. Besides a show in York County where Shelby has already competed this season, Shelby plans to exhibit her animals at Kutztown, Allentown, and Oley fairs.

Shelby's mother, Kenianne, also exhibited animals and introduced her daughter to the show ring at the age of three.

This year Shelby was able to join 4-H.

To Shelby, showing animals in competition is "fun, you have to make sure the animals are combed well and in the right position." Shelby topped the junior division of the sheep showmanship class.

In addition Shelby will show six head of beef cattle at the Reading Fair. The Raricks have 17 head of Simmental and Short-horn cattle on their farm.

Judge Annette Lovell, a Penn State graduate living in Paoli, participated on livestock judging teams while she was in college.



Amanda Miller's homebred Southdown ewe and ram took home champion honors at Reading Fair Tuesday.

She works as a shepherd for Holystone Farms, Paoli, a purebred Dorset operation. Lovell grew up showing animals from her family's beef, sheep, and hog farm in Linden.

The breed show, especially the quality among the ewes, was very strong, according to Lovell. "4-H'ers have particularly high quality in the breeding stock," she said.

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