

Shenandoah Valley 4-H'ers Gearing Up To Visit Farm Show

GAY BROWNLEE
Virginia Correspondent
HARRISONBURG, Va. — When the Pennsylvania Farm Show opens, at least one 4-H club from the Shenandoah Valley will be on hand to take in the rodeo on Saturday.

Greenmount 4-H Club members Isaac Burgess, vice-president, and his brother, Paul, president, love the rodeo, especially, the bull riding competition.

Two years ago at the National FFA Convention, 16-year old Isaac got hooked on the dangerous event while watching the High School Rodeo.

Isaac said he's determined to ride bulls one day himself. Already, he is practicing for the fu-

ture with a portable bucking rig he designed and constructed in school. He used a barrel and connected various lengths of pipe that keep it well-anchored. The nifty invention has been on public display in local parades.

The elder brother is well over six-feet tall but the height of his sibling, Paul, 14, is almost too close to determine the difference. Both are active in 4-H and FFA.

Sandra Strawderman, organizational leader for Greenmount 4-H, said the club hasn't been to the Farm Show for three years.

With adult supervision, Strawderman said the kids will have permission to roam about and enjoy whatever events and exhi-

bits appeal to them, as long as they are responsible to meet at the appointed place for the homebound journey, later.

Carenda Strawderman, 14, her daughter and a freshman classmate of Paul Burgess at the Broadway High School, adores observing the horses at the rodeo, but the barrel event is her favorite competition.

At the Rockingham County Fair, Carenda shows lambs and registered Shorthorns in both the junior and open shows. This will be her third visit to the Farm Show. She says she is really looking forward to it.

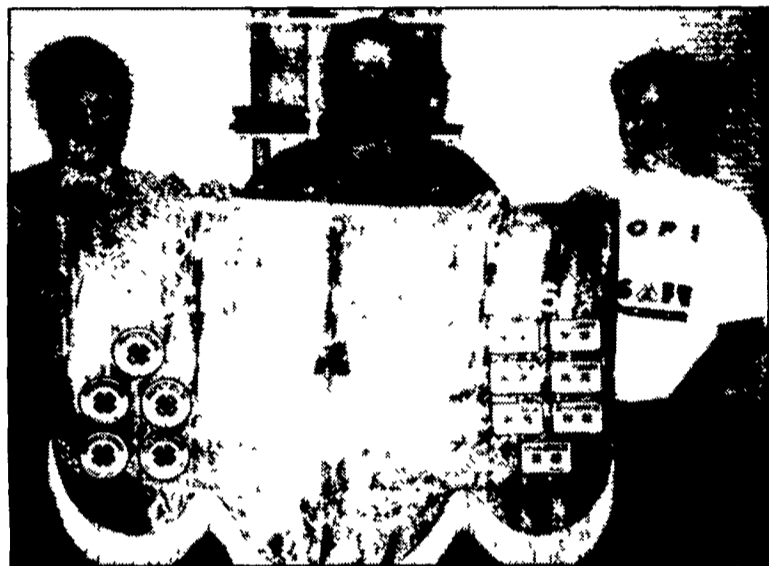
"I like looking at how the animals are clipped. They are clipped differently there," said the showmanship winner and future veterinarian hopeful.

Blair, her 12-year old brother, participates in the junior division of livestock judging and shows hogs at the county fair. He thinks being in competition is a good experience for the younger kids, who learn from watching older kids.

Besides the fascinating display of machinery at the Farm Show, Blair is intrigued by the control he sees experienced exhibitors maintaining over their animals with many people around.

When asked about tasting new foods at the Farm Show, Blair declared his preference for good old American cheeseburgers and French fries keeps him from sampling delicacies like emu.

"(The kids) aren't very adventurous," their mother said.



With the Greenmount 4-H Club banner, pictured is organizational leader, Sandra Strawderman with her son, Blair, 12 and daughter Carenda, 14.



Carenda Strawderman, 14, displays a plaque received for the junior grand champion Shorthorn at the 2000 Rockingham County Fair, as well as the banner for the grand champion heifer in the open show.



Blair Strawderman, 12, shows ribbons he received for his grand champion Shorthorn bull in the junior show at the Rockingham County Fair.

Jane Burgess, Isaac and Paul's mother, said she is impressed by the numerous breeds of animals at the Farm Show.

Because the Burgess family show steers at the county fair, they find the annual Farm Show a great place to note tips about grooming animals for competition.

Isaac, a high school junior, is the chapter treasurer and Paul, assistant parliamentarian in the Broadway FFA Chapter.

Carenda Strawderman said she would like to see Greenmount 4-H expand its concentra-

tion on animals. She spends hour upon hour working with her Suffolk sheep.

The Strawdermans raise some 25 registered beef Shorthorns and have a commercial sheep operation of 75 ewes and five rams.

"We graze as much as we can and feed hay," Sandra said.

Sandra hopes weather information won't throw a cog in Farm Show travel plans as it did the previous time when an ice storm in the forecast caused a debate on whether or not to go.

"I hate that responsibility," the leader said.

Kayla Dull Takes Her Love Of Sheep To This Year's Farm Show

LINDA WILLIAMS
Bedford Co. Correspondent
MANN'S CHOICE (Bedford Co.) — Kayla Dull feeds and walks her sheep every day in preparation for the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

She knows what it is like to get up in the wee hours to help deliver lambs.

"It's all part of raising sheep," the Chestnut Ridge High School 10th grader explained. "If a sheep is having a lamb in the

middle of the night, I have to be there to help her.

"One time I even had to stay home from school to help take care of (lambs). It is usually my mom who looks after the lambings while I am at school.

"My favorite lambings are those that occur when I am not here. I come home, the lambs are here and nursing and I don't have to worry about them. But, that doesn't happen often," she said.

"We've seen it all here. We've had a successful set of triplets and we had a set that we lost as well as the mother. That was hard."

The daughter of Robert and Missy Dull, Kayla has been showing sheep for seven years.

"It started when I was only five and a friend made me a wool

outfit to walk in the leadline at the Bedford Fair," she said. "I've been interested in sheep ever since."

Last summer, Kayla captured first place in the standard class of the Bedford Fair leadline competition wearing a solid black wool dress.

Kayla's sheep project is shared with her younger brother, Beau. Actually, it's all a family affair. The sheep barn in the back yard was built by her dad and extended family members. The hay is grown on her grandfather's farm. It's a picturesque setting, with a hunting dog and two cats completing the family.

A member of the Young Shepherds and Young Stockmen's 4-H Club, Kayla has shown sheep at the Bedford Fair for the past two years. Last year, she

placed fifth in Pennsylvania State Farm Show competition.

For the 2002 show, Kayla will be showing her wethered crossbred she bought at the Somerset County Fair. Her total flock consists of 14 Dorsets and Suffolks. All of the ewes are expecting lambs.

"We bred the Dorsets with our own buck," she said.

Her plans for the future are uncertain, but definitely include college. She believes her interest in sheep could lead her to anything from shearing to becoming a vet.

Kayla also belongs to the Chestnut Ridge FFA, plays soccer, runs on the track team, and enjoys hunting.

This deer season she bagged both a doe and buck and helped turn them into deer bologna.



Kayla Dull of Manns Choice, Bedford County, is proud of her Dorset and Suffolk sheep flock. She will be exhibiting a crossbred lamb wether at this year's Farm Show.

Pennsylvania Farm Show Features Dairy

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program (PDPP) and American Dairy Association and Dairy Council (ADADC) Mid East invite all dairy farmers to visit the dairy checkoff booth, located in the main exhibition hall of the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, during Farm Show Week.

The checkoff exhibit is cosponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association and is educational and informative. Games will challenge the knowledge of kids about the benefits of dairy products. Moms and dads can get educational materials to learn about the great benefits of including dairy products in their family's diets. Checkoff staff will also be on hand to visit with farmers about the checkoff program.

Again this year, PDPP, ADADC Mid East, and Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association are sponsoring the butter sculpture and, as always, the display is kept a secret until the unveiling. However it is known that it will be based on a patriotic theme. The butter sculpture is a high-

light for many Farm Show visitors.

The cheese carving contest will return again this year, with contestants sculpting a 10-pound block of Cheddar cheese. A cheese display will also highlight the many different cheeses produced in Pennsylvania.

