

York Fair Hosts Full Slate Of Sheep Shows

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YORK (York Co.) — The York Fair recently hosted several days of sheep show action, including junior and open breed shows attracting sheep of all varieties.

In the open breeding show, supreme champion wool ewe honors went to Butch Carpenter, Jefferson, Maryland. His ewe first took first place in the 1-year and under 2-year-old class. Brian and Doris Snyder, Reading, took home supreme champion wool ram with their spring ram lamb.

In a showdown between the Cheviot, Hampshire, and Southdown rams — the three sheep that judge Tim Hall picked out of a championship drive of meat breeds — a homebred Hampshire owned by RJR Hampshires got

the nod for supreme champion ram of the meat breeds at York Fair's open breeding sheep show.

Dick, Becky, and son Jay Rishel, Seven Valleys, raised Elwood on their 17-acre farm of 40 head of sheep.

The ram was also champion at the Maryland State Fair. A twin brother of the animal has also garnered good show placings, according to the Rishels, who are deciding which of the two rams to keep on the farm. Jay Rishel started raising Hampshires in 1995, and the family has built the flock from those beginnings.

Besides the York and Maryland State Fairs, the family exhibits sheep at Keystone International Livestock Exposition (KILE) and the national Hampshire show at the North Ameri-

can International Livestock Exposition (NAILE). They also sell lambs to 4-H'ers, mainly as breeding sheep projects.

"We're interested in helping kids get started in that respect," said Dick Rishel. Watching their animals shown in the ring by young exhibitors is interesting and fun, according to Becky.

In the ewe show of the meat breeds, Jen Flinchbaugh's Southdown exhibited the best pattern, style, and productivity potential for a ewe, according to judge Hall, who named the ewe supreme champion.

Flinchbaugh, 21, a senior at Penn State, has been showing sheep for 16 years and has shown cattle and hogs in the past. Her homebred, "Sheila," is part of a 30-head flock that includes Southdown and crossbred sheep.

She is the daughter of Ed and Lou Ann Keeny, York, and is studying animal science at the university. She plans to move on to law school to study agriculture law. The Farm Show, KILE, and Maryland State Fair are other shows on Flinchbaugh's circuit.

Tim Hall, Dalmatia, Northumberland County, judged the breeding show of the meat breeds. Hall works as a flock consultant for Lauden Acres Dorsets, a 150-brood ewe operation.

In the junior breeding sheep show, Travis Flory, 17, Red Lion, won supreme champion ewe placing in the junior breeding show with his homebred. Rebecca Butt took home supreme champion ram placing in the same show.

(Turn to Page A25)



Jen Flinchbaugh, York, and homebred Southdown "Sheila" took home supreme champion ewe placing at York Fair's open breeding sheep show. She is joined by her father, Ed Keeny.



Travis Flory, Red Lion, won supreme champion ewe placing at York Fair's junior breeding sheep show. He is joined by Krissy Stem, Fawn Grove.



Becky and Dick Rishel, Seven Valleys, exhibited the supreme champion ram, a homebred Hampshire.

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