

# Rockingham County Fair Junior Exhibitors Show Six Breeds

**GAY BROWNLEE**  
*Virginia Correspondent*  
**HARRISONBURG, Va.** — Joanie Wills summer yearling "Kristina," was named grand champion Jersey at the junior dairy show at the Rockingham County Fair.

Born June 3, 2001, Kristina was also the reserve grand champion of the open show. Brandon Horn, Mt. Solon, had the Jersey open show grand champion.

"Angie," a junior 2-year-old, was reserve grand champion of the junior show for Will, who is 17 and lives in Bridgewater. Will said Kristina was bred on their own farm by a bull.

Jenny, 15 and Charlotte, 13, her sisters, each showed two heifers in the junior show.

The three each placed first in showing and fitting in her respective age division of competition. The siblings are members of the Rockingham County 4-H Dairy Club and all have been showing for the last four years.

Joe and Beverly Will, their parents, with Wills granddad and uncle, conduct a dairy operation at two locations parted by a few miles. Wills dad also maintains two poultry houses and watches dry cows and heifers. Twice daily at the other location, he milks some 60 Holsteins and 30 Jerseys.

As the Virginia State Dairy Princess and part-time waitress, Will said in a few weeks she and "Kristina" will be in Richmond where she expects the show to be very competitive at the Virginia State Fair.

Will said since acquiring her new title in January 2002, she and several dairy maids have visited the state capitol, met the state commissioner of agriculture, attended DHIA meetings in several counties and, during June

National Dairy Month, delivered "Got Milk" items to the first baby born in each Rockingham County and Augusta County.

Recently, an event promoting dairy at the Valley Mall in Harrisonburg, generated enough interest to surprise the princess because kids and adults responded very eagerly to the cute calves inside the mall and the cows in the parking area.

"It was popular. We had kids coming from everywhere," Will said.

Some years ago Will "accidentally" scored a soccer goal in physical education class and, since then, has played soccer in school and for a travel team that competes primarily in Virginia. She plays the wing position.

"I like playing for schools better," she says, comparing the two. "It is more competitive and down to earth. I don't know why I play soccer — I just like it."

In the Red and White breed, Frannie Crawford's 3-year-old was named grand champion. Crawford, 14, is from McGaheysville. "Sunshine" doubled as grand champion of the open show as well.

"Snowflake," Crawford's aged cow was, likewise, reserve grand champion in both the junior and open shows "Every morning I have to wake up and feed calves with Grandma Shirley Smith," Crawford said.

The Stoney Run Farms dairy herd, according to her granddad Fred Smith, finds 95 percent of the 1,000-head dairy are Holsteins, milked three times a day.

"The double-16 milking parlor is hardly big enough anymore," said Fred Smith.

Matt Switzer, 20, Bridgewater, showed the Holstein grand cham-

pion with a senior 2-year-old named "Bea." Switzer's sister, Megan, a freshman at Blue Ridge College, had the Holstein reserve grand champion with an aged cow named "Monique."

The grand champion in the open show belonged to John Welsh of Keezletown and the Holstein reserve grand champion was owned by Monta Vista Farm, Harrisonburg.

In 2001, Switzer earned the prestigious American Farmer Degree through the Turner-Ashby FFA. At the National 4-H Dairy Judging event in 1999, Switzer was the 13th high individual and helped his team achieve third place overall.

Switzer is on the first dairy judging team at Virginia Tech, where he is a junior studying dairy science and ag economics. The team has been practicing at venues such as Maryland State Fair at Timonium, Md.

Prior to the national competition in Madison, Wis., the team will compete at venues in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

"I'm pretty excited. I never did it before," Switzer said, referring to the collegiate level of competition.

His parents, William and Sandy Switzer, are co-chairpersons of the Rockingham fair dairy barn. Fifteen years have passed since they began and still they love doing it.

"It's a fun competition," said Switzer's mother. "We get along great in the dairy barn. They all congratulate each other," she said, praising the youths who participate.

Switzer's sister, Mindi, has graduated already from the Eastern Mennonite University.

Some 80-90 Holsteins in the Switzer dairy are milked morning



**Matt Switzer, 20, Bridgewater, shows Bea, a senior 2-year-old, grand champion of the Holstein breed at the Rockingham County Fair junior show.**

and evening in a double-4 milking parlor where a young woman employee assists the operation.

Rachel Smith, 13, McGaheysville, had the Brown Swiss grand champion with a 3-year-old named "Skye." Smith's parents are Jeff and Norma Smith.

"I felt happy," said Smith, second oldest of four children. Skye's victory was duplicated in the open show.

Also in the open show, Billie Jo Swope of Churchville showed the Brown Swiss reserve grand champion.

Skye was purchased at a sale in Dublin Hills, Md. The first time Smith showed her was last year.

An eighth grader at the Montevideo Middle School, Smith is a member of the Rockingham County 4-H Dairy Club. She owns four Brown Swiss and three Ayrshires, besides a quarter horse, "Bonnie," who has foaled several times.

"I spend more time with her babies than I do with her," said the teen-ager.

Although Smith and Frannie Crawford are required to clean the milking parlor at their grandparents' farm, the girls are getting a break owing to the opening of school. On weekends and holidays, they will be making up for it.

Kelsey Morris, 14, Harrisonburg, had the Ayrshire grand champion with an aged cow named "Hunter." The reserve grand champion was "Heidi," Morris's other dry cow. In the open, show Hunter and Heidi won the respective titles, as well.

A Spotswood High School ninth grader and dairy maid,

Morris is a member of the Rockingham County 4-H Dairy Club. She and brother Chad, 12, are the children of Mark and Renee Morris.

Morris assists her mom in milking a mixed herd of some 45 Holsteins and Ayrshires owned by Bob and Pat Shirey, her grandparents. Morris's dad holds an outside job.

The coolest part of showing is the generational aspect started by Granddad Shirey in 1946.

Not only that, but he must really like kids. After all, he's been a school bus driver for 48 years.

Morris's Grandmother Shirey recorded results of the dairy show for more than 35 years and would use her vacation time from the bank to attend the fair. She recently retired from several fair-related responsibilities, including directorship.

Unexpectedly, Morris's plan to compete in showing and fitting was aborted following the open show. It seems the Holstein she intended to use in the competition brought a new calf into the world instead, and attracted all kinds of attention at the fair.

The Guernsey grand champion was owned by Brett Brubaker, 15, from Dayton. The youth is a member of the Turner-Ashby FFA. Jason Orebaugh, Broadway, had the Guernsey reserve grand champion.

In the open show, Audrey Fuller, Mt. Solon, had the Guernsey breed grand champion and Jason Fuller, Mt. Solon, had the reserve grand champion.

In all, Matt Muckols from East View Farm, Beaver Falls, judged about 140 dairy animals shown by 42 exhibitors.



**Joanie Will, 17, Bridgewater, has the grand champion Jersey — "Kristina" — a summer yearling, born June 3, 2001.**



**Rachel Smith, 13, McGaheysville, poses with her grand champion Brown Swiss 3-year-old, "Skye" at the Rockingham County Fair.**

## York Fair Junior Sheep Show Results

### YORK FAIR JUNIOR SHEEP SHOW RESULTS

Sheep blocking and grooming 16 and up: 1. Mark Brown.  
Sheep blocking and grooming 13-15: 1. Rebecca Butt. 2. Tony Haugh.  
Sheep blocking and grooming 10-12: 1. Matthew Bankert.  
Sheep blocking and grooming 8-9: 1. Andrew Bankert. 2. Emily Butt.  
Champion blocking and grooming: Rebecca Butt.  
Reserve champion blocking and grooming: Mark Brown.  
Shepherd's bred and owned 16 and up: 1. Travis Flory. 2. Mark Brown. 3. Kelly Jo Bankert.  
Shepherd's bred and owned 13-15: 1. Grady Bankert. 2. Rebecca Butt. 3. Rick Jones.  
Shepherd's bred and owned 10-12: 1. Tasha Flory. 2. Matthew Bankert. 3. Tiffany Flory.  
Shepherd's bred and owned 8-9: 1. Andrew Bankert. 2. Cortney Flory. 3. Emily Butt.  
Sheep decorator — funniest: 1. Nicole Gemmill. 2. Rebecca Butt. 3. Susan Richardson.  
Sheep decorator — most original: 1. Sarah Doyle. 2. Shane Butt.  
Sheep decorator — most attractive: 1. Maggie Noonan. 2. Emily Butt.  
Sheep lead line 16 and up: 1. Maggie Noonan. 2. Megan Heath. 3. Hope Long.  
Sheep lead line 13-15: 1. Mary Zeigler. 2. Shane Butt. 3. Rebecca Butt.  
Sheep lead line 10-12: 1. Julia Vadas. 2. Claire Vadas. 3. Sarah Doyle.  
Sheep lead line 8-9: 1. Emily Butt. 2. Cortney Flory.

Sheep showmanship 16 and up: 1. Travis Flory. 2. Megan Heath. 3. Kelly Jo Bankert.  
Sheep showmanship 13-15: 1. Brandy Bankert. 2. Tony Haugh. 3. Kim Long.  
Sheep showmanship 10-12: 1. Matthew Bankert. 2. Tasha Flory. 3. Dalton Flory.  
Sheep showmanship 8-9: 1. Andrew Bankert. 2. Emily Butt. 3. Cortney Flory.  
**GRAND CHAMPION SHOWMAN**  
Travis Flory  
**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION SHOWMAN**  
Megan Heath  
Sheep fitting 16 and up: 1. Lindsay Jones. 2. Mark Brown. 3. Travis Flory.  
Sheep fitting 13-15: 1. Rick Jones. 2. Nicole Gemmill. 3. Brandy Bankert.  
Sheep fitting 10-12: 1. Tasha Flory. 2. Matthew Bankert. 3. Tiffany Flory.  
Sheep fitting 8-9: 1. Emily Butt. 2. Andrew Bankert. 3. Cortney Flory.  
**GRAND CHAMPION FITTER**  
Rick Jones  
**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION FITTER**  
Tasha Flory  
**YORK FAIR JUNIOR SHEEP BREEDING SHOW RESULTS**  
**CHEVIOT**  
Ram lamb under 1 year: 1. Tony Haugh. 2. Tony Haugh.  
Champion ram: Tony Haugh.  
Reserve champion ram: Tony Haugh.  
Yearling ewe 1 year under 2: 1. Tony Haugh. 2. Tony Haugh.  
Ewe, spring lamb: 1. Tony Haugh. 2. Tony Haugh.  
Champion ewe: Tony Haugh.  
Reserve champion ewe: Tony Haugh.  
Pair of breeding rams or ewes: 1. Tony Haugh.

Ram lamb under 1 year: 1. Matthew Bankert. 2. Julia Vadas.  
Champion ram: Matthew Bankert.  
Reserve champion ram: Julia Vadas.  
Yearling ewe 1 year under 2: 1. Matthew Bankert.  
Ewe, spring lamb: 1. Matthew Bankert. 2. Mark Brown. 3. Mark Brown.  
Champion ewe: Matthew Bankert.  
Reserve champion ewe: Matthew Bankert.  
Pair of breeding rams or ewes: 1. Matthew Bankert. 2. Mark Brown. 3. Claire Vadas.  
**CORRIEDALE**  
Ram lamb under 1 year: 1. Eric Bankert. 2. Eric Bankert.  
**GRAND CHAMPION RAM**  
Eric Bankert  
**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION RAM**  
Eric Bankert  
Yearling ewe: 1. Eric Bankert. 2. Eric Bankert.  
Ewe, spring lamb: 1. Megan Heath. 2. Eric Bankert. 3. Eric Bankert.  
**GRAND CHAMPION EWE**  
Megan Heath  
**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION EWE**  
Eric Bankert  
Pair of breeding rams or ewes: 1. Eric Bankert.  
**HAMPSHIRE**  
Yearling ewe 1 year under 2: 1. Megan Heath.  
Ewe, spring lamb: 1. Lexie Grove. 2. Lexie Grove. 3. Megan Heath.  
Champion Hampshire: Lexie Grove.  
Reserve champion Hampshire: Megan Heath.  
Pair of breeding rams or ewes: Lexie Grove.  
**MONTADALE**  
Ram lamb under 1 year: 1. Tony Haugh.

Champion ram: Tony Haugh.  
Yearling ewe: 1. Tony Haugh.  
Ewe, spring lamb: 1. Tony Haugh. 2. Tony Haugh.  
Champion ewe: Tony Haugh.  
Reserve champion ewe: Tony Haugh.  
Pair of breeding rams or ewes: 1. Tony Haugh.  
**NATURAL COLOR SHEEP**  
Ram lamb under 1 year: 1. Shane Butt. 2. Shane Butt. 3. Emily Russell.  
**GRAND CHAMPION RAM**  
Shane Butt  
**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION RAM**  
Shane Butt  
Yearling ewe: 1. Emily Russell. 2. Emily Butt. 3. Emily Butt.  
Ewe, fall lamb: 1. Shane Butt.  
Ewe, spring lamb: 1. Emily Butt. 2. Emily Russell. 3. Shane Butt.  
**GRAND CHAMPION EWE**  
Emily Russell  
**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION EWE**  
Emily Butt  
Pair of breeding rams or ewes: 1. Shane Butt. 2. Emily Russell. 3. Emily Butt.  
**RAMBOUILLET**  
Ewe, fall lamb: 1. Mary Zeigler.  
**GRAND CHAMPION EWE**  
Mary Zeigler  
**SHROPSHIRE**  
Yearling ewe: 1. Andrew Bankert.  
Ewe, spring lamb: 1. Andrew Bankert. 2. Andrew Bankert.  
Champion ewe: Andrew Bankert.  
Reserve champion ewe: Andrew Bankert.  
Pair of breeding rams or ewes: 1. Andrew Bankert.  
**SOUTHDOWN**  
Ram lamb under 1 year: 1. Brandy Bankert. 2. Kelly Jo Bankert. 3. Kelly Jo Bankert.

Champion ram: Brandy Bankert.  
Reserve champion ram: Kelly Jo Bankert.  
Yearling ewe: 1. Tasha Flory. 2. Tasha Flory.  
Ewe, spring lamb: 1. Kelly Jo Bankert. 2. Brandy Bankert. 3. Brandy Bankert.  
Champion ewe: Tasha Flory.  
Reserve champion ewe: Tasha Flory.  
Pair of breeding rams or ewes: 1. Kelly Jo Bankert. 2. Brandy Bankert.  
**SUFFOLK**  
Ram lamb under 1 year: 1. Rebecca Butt. 2. Rebecca Butt. 3. Travis Flory.  
Champion ram: Rebecca Butt.  
Reserve champion ram: Rebecca Butt.  
Yearling ewe: 1. Travis Flory. 2. Rebecca Butt. 3. Travis Flory.  
Ewe, fall lamb: 1. Rebecca Butt.  
Ewe, spring lamb: 1. Rebecca Butt. 2. Travis Flory. 3. Travis Flory.  
Champion ewe: Travis Flory.  
Reserve champion ewe: Rebecca Butt.  
Pair of breeding rams or ewes: 1. Travis Flory. 2. Rebecca Butt.  
**OTHER WOOL BREEDS**  
Ram lamb: 1. Rebecca Butt. 2. Rebecca Butt. 3. Mary Zeigler.  
**GRAND CHAMPION RAM**  
Rebecca Butt  
**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION RAM**  
Rebecca Butt  
Yearling ewe: 1. Rebecca Butt. 2. Emily Butt. 3. Rebecca Butt.  
Ewe, spring lamb: 1. Rebecca Butt. 2. Rebecca Butt.  
**GRAND CHAMPION EWE**  
Rebecca Butt  
**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION EWE**  
Rebecca Butt  
Pair of breeding rams or ewes: 1. Rebecca Butt. 2. Mary Zeigler.