## **Socializing, Learning, Watching** *Farm Show Provides All Three For Sheep Exhibitor*

## MICHELLE KUNJAPPU Lancaster Farming Staff

RAWLINSVILLE (Lancasster Co.) — With "Cotton," Jaymi McMichael had a double winner.

Not only did Jaymi win the Corriedale three years ago in a contest conducted by the Pennsylvania Corriedale Association, but the animal came in a with big win at the 2002 Farm Show, taking home the champion Corriedale ewe placing in the junior show.

Now Jaymi, 13, in eighth grade in Penn Manor School District, is following that win by taking another two Corriedales, just purchased this year, to the show ring.

She purchased "Peaches" and "Savannah" in August and October and began walking them, readying them for the Farm Show, during Christmas break practices that she will do more frequently as the event quickly approaches.

The sheep will head to Harrisburg on Wednesday, and Jaymi will show them on Thursday and Friday. The points that she may earn in the show ring will be totaled with her Skillathon and showmanship scores to compete for the shepherd's contest.

She is, in fact, anticipating spending a lot of time in Harrisburg during this year's Farm Show.

The event is not only a place of competition but also of learning, she said. Watching the different breeds of sheep and cattle and talking to industry people — such as the people she bought her sheep from — has proven to be a big help with her show ring career.

However the time spent at the show is not all work. The social life — connecting with her 4-H and FFA friends — is also a great part of the show, admits Jaymi. She combined fun with work last year, for instance, when she and a friend did their homework on the roof of the trailer.

Other work may include helping out at the Pennsylvania Fruit and Vegetable Growers stand, since her parents, Steve and Julie, are members of the organization. Besides bags of groceries already sitting in the house or tucked away in the freezer, a new toaster oven awaits a trip to the Farm Show, according to Julie. Jaymi plans on staying overnight at the complex.

Back home on the farm, the McMichaels have seven sheep which are bred for the show ring. Breeds include a Suffolk crossbred, Hampshires, and Corriedales. "Cotton," "Candy," "Lollipop," and "Peaches" are a part of the sweet-sounding flock.

Jaymi's own sheep showing career began six years ago as she followed in the footsteps of her brother, Dan, 20. Before that she had exhibited cattle but wanted to try her hand at exhibiting sheep, which she began three years ago.

Winning "Cotton" by writing an essay for the Pennsylvania Corriedale Association's contest helped to launch Jaymi into the sheep ring in a big way. Although Corriedales, as a wool breed, are "more work" than readying a

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"Peaches" and "Savannah" will compete Friday and Saturday at the Farm Show.



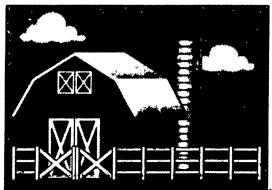
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10:00 - 10:45	Blue Seal Feeds	Blue Seal Feeds	Blue Seal Fee
	Rabbit - Dairy Goat -	Sheep Nutrition	
11:00 - 11:45	Solienberger Silo	Solienberger Silo	Sollenberger Silo
	New innovations in Feed Storage & Handling. Tower silo with elevated floors so feed mixer can drive through & be quickly loaded		
1:00 - 1:48	NSIA, Inc.	NSIA, Inc	NSIA, inc
	Using computers on your farm for field mapping record keeping		

financial management and communication

 
 2:00 - 2:45
 Iron Solutions
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 Determining used farm equipment values by using industry official guides using the internet to gather trade-in pricing and locate equipment at local and North American dealerships



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