

# Pennsylvania Lamb And Wool Coronation Set For Farm Show's Opening Day

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**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — Bittersweet emotions tear at the heart of Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Queen Lauren Ferringer from Home, Indiana County.

During opening day at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, Lauren will crown her successor to represent the lamb and wool industry.

One year ago, Lauren began her busy year of promoting the industry that she loves. Her duties began with presenting awards during sheep competition and the sheep to shawl contest.

"In the first few days, I had learned more about the wool aspect of the sheep industry than I had every known before," said Lauren, who has raised Suffolk lambs for three years.

Knowledge continued in the weeks after Farm Show. At the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association annual meeting, Lauren toured the Penn State sheep barns and met industry officials. In May, the Keystone Classic, which is an open show for breeding sheep, sale, and stockman's contest at Penn State, provided another view of the industry.

During the summer, Lauren attended many day camps to encourage youth participation in the lamb and wool industry. Instead of the lamb following Mary to school, a lamb often accompanied Lauren so students could pet and admire a lamb up close.

Lauren explained docking, ear tagging, clipping, and the various lamb and meat cuts. At times, she took lamb menu entrees she prepared and handed out samples to encourage others to use lamb in menu planning.

Lauren attended the Ram Test Sale in August and Ag Progress Days in order to answer questions people asked about the industry.

Radio interviews and addressing audiences at many events helped spread correct information about the lamb and wool industry.

"I'm saddened my reign will come to an end. This has been an exciting and informative year,



**Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Queen Lauren Ferringer, left, believes her experience in raising lambs benefits her studies for becoming a veterinarian.**



**Angle Stump, right, Uniontown, serves as princess for the lamb and wool industry. Mary Zeigler, left, is also a princess for the industry and is from York County.**

not only through meeting new people but also by expanding my knowledge of the lamb and wool industry," Lauren said.

Lauren is a junior at Penn State, where she is pursuing ani-



mal science studies. Her goal is to become a doctor of veterinary medicine.

Assisting Lauren in promotion were several princesses. Megan Heath, York, raises 13 sheep

made up on Hampshire, Corriedale, and crossbreeds.

The 17-year-old plans to pursue pre-vet studies at Penn State in order to become a large animal and equine vet.

"I am completely independent with raising my own sheep. I buy all my feed and pay for all expenses," she said.

Also fulfilling a year as the industry's princesses are 16-year-old Mary Zeigler, also from York, who raises Romney, Shetland, and Rambouillet breeds, and Angie Stump, Uniontown.

Runner-up Jill Gevin, Cochran, has raised sheep on the family's Crawford acreage for 10 years. She has eight Oxford sheep of her own and helps her family with their 11 Shropshire and seven Textile breeds.

She also plans to study ag science at Penn State.

As the Northwestern Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Queen, Jill set up displays and handed out lamb samples and ribbons.

Jill, who desires to continue to promote the sheep and wool industry, will compete for the 2003 Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Queen title Jan. 11 during the state Farm Show. Other contestants include Ciara Williamson, Cogan Station; Amber Shollenberger, Mohrsville; Cassie Marsh, Clarion; Cassie Mooney, Waynesburg; and Sarah Regula, Brownfield.

Contestants will be judged on four categories:

- Consumer promotional display — A display that promotes the sheep and wool industry.

- Public speaking — Each contestant must give a 2-5 minutes speech before judges and the audience Jan. 11 at 4 p.m. in Meeting Room E, second-floor of the Farm Show Complex. The presentation will address some aspect of the sheep and wool industry, be informative, and include how the contestant would help promote the industry.

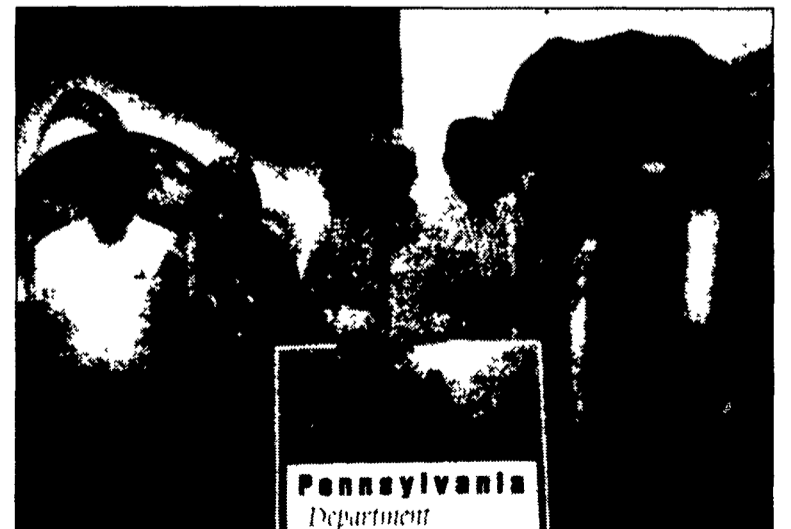
- Interview — Each contestant will be interviewed by a panel of judges beginning a 3 p.m. Jan. 11, in meeting room E of the Farm Show Building. Contestants will be evaluated on general sheep production knowledge, the sheep and wool industry, communication skills, poise, personality, enthusiasm, and availability to fulfill responsibilities of the Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Queen title.

- Writing skills — Each contestant is required to submit an article introducing herself and future plans for promoting the lamb and wool industry. The article must be 200 words or less and double-spaced. Judging will be based on clarity, use of language, writing skills, and ability to express thoughts and ideas.

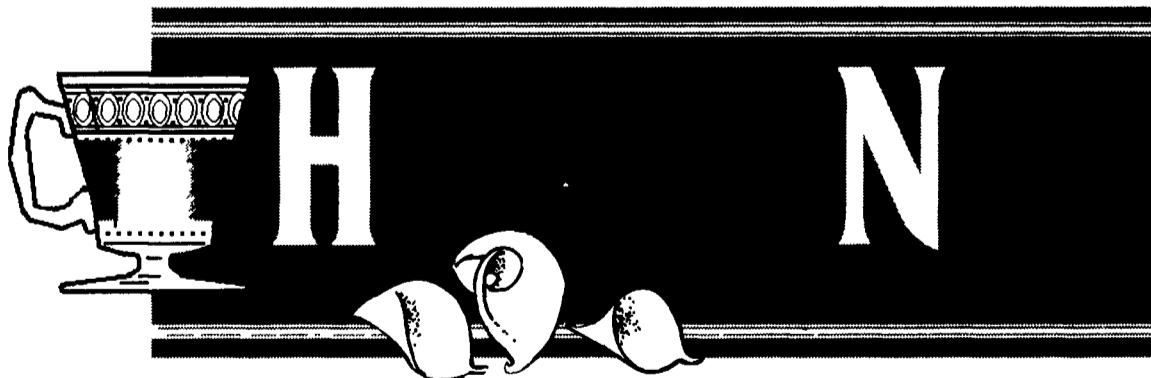
The coronation banquet will follow judging.



**Megan Heath, lamb and wool princess from York County, shows the consumer promotional display she prepared.**



**First Runner-up Lamb and Wool Queen Jill Gevin, second from left, participates in ground breaking at the Rockspring Livestock Evaluation Center. With her at Secretary of Agriculture Samuel Hayes and PDA members. Jill plans to compete for the state title at the state Farm Show coronation.**



## Virginia Dairy Princess Coronation Is Jan. 22

**STAUNTON, VA.** — The Virginia Dairy Princess Coronation is scheduled in conjunction with the Virginia State Dairymen's Association 96th annual convention Holiday Inn

Golf and Conference Center Staunton, Virginia, 4-6 p.m., Wednesday January 22.

Banquet immediately follows coronation. Tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$10 for students.

To order banquet tickets, send checks to Virginia State Dairymen's Association, P.O. Box 866 Harrisonburg, VA 22803.