

# Success Strategies Vary At Reading Fair Sheep Show

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Amanda Miller and her South-down ewe have something in common — they are both queens.

"She (Queen) was crowned queen today," Amanda's mom, Joan said after a friend picked the name for Queeny on the spot.

Queeny is the grand champion ewe and Amanda is the reigning 2003 Berks County Lamb and Wool Queen.

Amanda is no stranger to sheep showing. The 18-year-old grew up on her family's sheep farm in Bernville and has been raising and breeding sheep for 15 years, she said.

Amanda said she knew Queeny would fair well because she placed high as a lamb. Her secret to success is experience.

"I go to a lot of fairs and I am used to being in the show ring," she said. "I know my animals' flaws and I work with them."

Other winners at the show include 12-year-old Mallory Ketterer, Bernville; 11-year-old Shelby Rarick, Fleetwood; and 10-year-old Jere Essig, Bernville.

Mallory is raising sheep in suburbia, her mom Jo-Ann said. She raises 12 sheep on land they rent from a farmer behind their house. Her Border Leicester, Zeke, won

grand champion ram. Mallory said she was pleased with the results, but her mom said she was surely stunned.

"I know (Mallory) thought she was in last place," Jo-Ann Ketterer said.

In Shelby Rarick's third year showing, she only brought two sheep from her family's Fleetwood beef farm to the show. Beyonce, her ewe, won grand champion market lamb. Shelby was calm and collected and said her secret to success was walking the sheep 10 to 15 minutes everyday.

Jere Essig was full of excitement when he found out his mar-

ket lamb, Dusty, became the reserve grand champion market lamb.

He said raising sheep on his family's pig and sheep farm is a lot of work. His routine includes walking them everyday and shaving and washing them every weekend.

"It's worth it," he said.

Marlyn Stroh judged the sheep and said a few times it was hard to choose the winner and other times he had no problem. He said there might not be a lot of competition in each of the classes, but overall he was finding the kind of individuals he liked to handle.



From left, 2003 Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Queen Amber Shollenberger distributed ribbons at the Reading Fair Wool Show. Amanda Miller took grand champion ewe with Queeny, chosen by judge Marlyn Stroh. Mallory Ketterer's ram Zeke won grand champion ram.



From left, Jere Essig displays Dusty, the reserve champion market lamb. Shelby Rarick hangs onto Beyonce, the grand champion market lamb.

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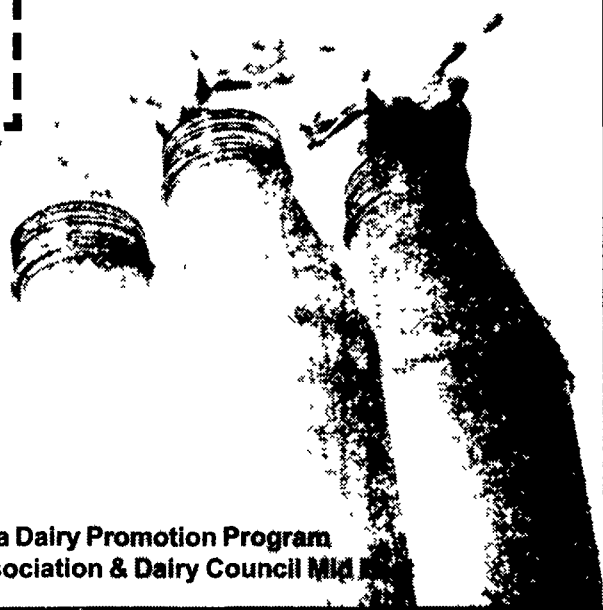
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