

Kids Korner

Plenty Of Work, Fun, Smiles At Lancaster 4-H Fair

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LAMPETER (Lancaster Co.)
 — Ten-year-old Megan Ackley knows that in raising livestock for 4-H projects, things don't always go as planned.

It certainly did not for her. Her plan to raise lambs for 4-H competition suffered a devastating blow several months ago when neighboring dogs knocked down the gate to the pen where her two lambs were kept.

The dogs attacked the two lambs, and Megan's favorite did not survive.

"I miss Scooter," Megan said of her deceased lamb.

Megan thought her opportunity to show lambs in competition vanished with the death of her market lamb.

But rules allowed her to purchase a replacement lamb. So, last week, Megan prepared Lily, a Suffolk lamb purchased from Joanne Zimmerman, Reinholds.

Megan daily walked Lily and Skittles in preparation for competition.

Well, almost every day. When Megan went on vacation with her

parents, Russell and Cheryl, her grandparents provided lamb care.

"It takes two sets of grandparents to take care of a family of four," said Megan's grandfather Charles Achley. They also cared for the lambs that Megan's brother Josh, 13, was showing.

Families are important to most 4-H success.

In breeding sheep competition, Katrina Frey carried on the family tradition when her champion bred and owned ewe was named supreme champion ewe over all breeds at the Lancaster 4-H Fair.

Katrina's grandmother Joan MacCauley and her mother Nancy Frey have been instrumental in showing sheep through the generations under the name Breezeview Farm.

The lamb was a pleasant surprise to a rough start for the ewe.

"It was a bottle-fed lamb because its mom rejected it," Katrina said.

When the lamb was born on George Washington's birthday, it slipped between wooden slats in the pen. It was almost dead when found. The Frey family took turns tube feeding the ewe

around the clock.

The pampered ewe lived in the Frey's laundry room until it was healthy enough to survive in the barn with 65 other ewes.

The supreme ewe came from champion stock. Its grandmother was the supreme champion at the 4-H Fair in 1999, and her mother Valentine-Breezeview 15 was named champion bred and owned in 2001.

Those champions had been sired by a ram also from Breezeview, which has sired champion lambs all over the U.S., and had been named top champion in the whole country in 2000. The Breezy View ram sold for \$23,000 at a Missouri sale. That was the top price in 25 years for a lamb.

Another lamb exhibitor, Shannon Wettig, confidently prepared her lamb Oreo.

It was the first year for Shannon showing lambs.

The confident 9-year-old said, "I watched the seniors. All I need to do in the show ring is set her up."

Although it is her first year of showing sheep, Shannon has experience helping with the families five horses, which her parents' Tim and Emily Wettig show.

"I like to show sheep. They behave better than horses," Shannon said.

Shannon said her lamb was wild when it was purchased. She walked it for a couple of hours to calm it.

She also walked it every day after that. The stubborn little black lamb named Charcoal would fall down and play dead if she didn't want to walk.

At first, Shannon picked her up and carried Charcoal to finish the walk. But Shannon said the lamb is very tame and coopera-



In her first year of showing sheep, Shannon Wettig, 9, faced the event with confidence as she prepared Oreo for the show ring. "All I need to do is get her ready and set her up — I watched the seniors do it," Shannon said.

tive now.

For 4-H'ers, the annual Lancaster 4-H Roundup involves much more than showing animals. Competitions were conducted for talent, square dancing,

line dancing, and all types of general exhibits. Many of the older 4-H'ers help with judging and with conducting activities for friends and family who attend the event.



What would the 4-H fair be without food? Four-H members volunteer to sell and serve food during the four-day event. From left are Jessica Biikenbine, 13; Heidi Smith, 12; and Katrina Smith, 14.



Life turned out better for Megan Ackley, 10, than she expected. Several weeks ago, neighboring dogs broke into her sheep pen and killed her 4-H lamb. Megan purchased a replacement lamb. Here she prepares Lily, a Suffolk, for 4-H market lamb competition. Three generations of Megan's family came to watch Megan in her first week of showing at the Lancaster County 4-H Roundup. With Megan are her parents Cheryl and Russel Ackley, grandparents Charles and Joy Ackley, and brother Josh, 13.



Winning is a family affair for Katrina Frey, who holds her homebred Suffolk yearling named supreme champion ewe at the Lancaster 4-H Roundup last week. Katrina is the third generation to continue showing Breezeview Farm champions. With her are her grandmother Joan MacCauley, who oversees the breeding program; Katrina's parents Fritz and Nancy Frey, brother Freddie; and Aunt Chris MacCauley and her children Betsy and Kyle; and Johannes Theis, a family friend from Germany who helped fit the lamb.