

Kids Korner

Manheim Farm Show Wraps Up Final Fair Fling



Stealing the show is the youngest sheep exhibitor, who makes certain the lamb is standing correctly. Two-year-old Sierre Zimmerman, daughter of Sarah and Jay Zimmerman, Reinholds, won the non-serious sheep showing event.

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Food And Family
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MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — Showing sheep may last for hours, but the event sure wasn't boring at the Manheim Community Farm Show last week.

To lighten the atmosphere between showing breeding and market lambs, the final fair of the season interspersed non-serious showmanship competition.

Parents and toddlers entered the show ring to mimic the requirements judges look for in serious showmanship. Forget showmanship garb, there was Eugene Bollinger in swim trunks and lounging on a beach chair while showing a market lamb. Another exhibitor must have thought showing sheep was dangerous. He wore a hard hat and orange vest while guiding his lamb around the show ring.

Another contestant was disqualified for showing a goat instead of a lamb. And Judy Zurin got things a bit confused when she gripped a show stick to chase her lamb, as if it were a hog.

A bit oblivious to all the commotion was 2-year-old Sierre Zimmerman who concentrated on making sure her lamb was set up in the proper stance. Her antics so impressed Wendall Landis, judge, that Sierre won the competition.

The event provided some comic relief during an evening of intense competition — which was the intent — according to Carlos Peters, who planned the event.

Happening at the opposite end of the fairgrounds were races and obstacle courses for kids of all ages. In the barnyard obstacle course, participants needed to jump a fence, dig a potato, place an egg in a basket, and run to the finish line.

Other events include a sack race, water balloon toss, chicken chase, and a pig race.

Manheim wraps up the final event during Lancaster County's fair season.

Photos by Lou Ann Good, food and family features editor



Dressed for the beach and lounging on a beach chair is sheep exhibitor Eugene Bollinger.



Handing out Red Gate Farm ice cream made with goat's milk are Joel Geib, 12; Stephen Geib, 11; and Diane Kensinger.



Showing sheep requires a hard hat and orange vest according to this showman dressed for the event.



In the 5-7-year-old division, these champions in the Barnyard Obstacle Race, from left, are Corin Costelle, Caleb Dehart, and Kacie Eberly.



What's a kid to do while waiting his turn to race? Climb the fence, of course.



Smile for the camera. This duo wearing matching sunbonnets in the non-serious showmanship division are typical of the original costumes showman wore.



Smart Stuff with Twig Walkingstick

Dear Twig: I saw a deer last winter and it was tan. I saw a deer last summer and it was reddish-brown. I saw a deer this morning, a beautiful fall morning, and it was gray. Do deer change color?

Oo good observations. Thank you for sharing them. Yes indeed deer do change color — a change as you've seen that's tied to the seasons. In spring and summer the coats of both white-tailed and mule deer, the two deer species in North America, are mostly reddish-brown — a rich, lovely hue that very much resembles the cinnamon feathers of a wood thrush, the auburn fur of a red fox, the burnt-sienna fenders of a '76 Ford Pinto. (Deer throats, bellies, and face parts are white.)

But deer, like the leaves, change color in autumn. The reddish-brown hairs fall out (gradually, otherwise deer would look and shiver like so many giant Chihuahuas). Heavier gray or tan hairs replace them. The change provides a warmer coat and also better camouflage. In spring the color changes back, gray or tan out, reddish-brown in.

Gray deer mean that fall is here or they ran out of Grecian Formula. (Ask your dad. Wait. Don't.)

Polychromatically

Twig

From The Ohio State University — specifically the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) and Ohio State University Extension.