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## **FAYETTE COUNTY TEEN CELEBRATES MULTIPLE PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW WINS**

**Uniontown, PA** – So far, 2025 is turning out to be a very good year for Fayette County 4-H member Emilyn Shearer.

Shearer, a junior at Connellsville Area High School, won the Master Showmanship Contest at the Pennsylvania Farm Show on Monday, and also took part in the Grand Champion Market Drive with both a goat and a pig.

In addition to her showmanship accolade, Shearer also brought home 4<sup>th</sup> Place Overall Junior Market Swine and 5<sup>th</sup> Place Overall Junior Market Goat banners.

“It doesn’t seem real still yet,” Shearer said. “It still is a little bit of a shock.”

Shearer explained qualifying for the showmanship competition is akin to making it to the Best of Show round at a dog show. The difference is there are several species of animals. According to farm show rules, the market category includes beef cattle, lambs, goats, swine, turkey and meat rabbits. In the breeding category are dairy cattle, dairy goats, sheep, meat goats, alpacas, rabbits and poultry.

The contest is open to “Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Master Showmen from the market divisions for Supreme Market Showmanship and the breeding divisions for Supreme Breeding Showmanship,” the rules state.

“You compete with the rest of the people that won their species,” Shearer.

Positioning and presentation are judged, as well as other criteria such as proper grooming. But Shearer said, in the interest of fairness, competitors don’t participate with their own animals. Instead, outside livestock is brought in for the contest.

“They judge you based on how well you can present your animal and how much you can get out of an animal you’ve probably never touched in your life,” she said.

Shearer has been showing livestock “since I could walk, but I’ve been in 4-H for eight years now.” She shows cattle, lambs, goats and pigs and calls cattle her favorites “just because I’ve had them longer. I still love them all, though.”

Shearer already has obtained the steer she will raise for the Fayette County Fair this summer and is looking forward to getting her lambs, goats and pigs. She noted that last year, she raised a Grand Champion lamb and a Grand Champion goat, and also won the fair's supreme showmanship contest.

But her achievement at the PA Farm Show isn't something she'll soon forget.

"It's definitely a big accomplishment," she said.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show is the largest indoor agricultural exposition under one roof in the nation. To learn more about the 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show, visit [www.pa.gov/agencies/farmshow/pa-farm-show.html](http://www.pa.gov/agencies/farmshow/pa-farm-show.html).

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.fayettecountypa.org](http://www.fayettecountypa.org).

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