

At the Fair

Tuesday, August 6, 2013

NEW JERSEY HERALD

A-7

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

AGRICULTURAL PAVILION

9 to 10 a.m.
4-H Market Lamb Show
10 a.m. to noon
Cow Kids Showmanship
All day
Melody Farm Follies
Singing vegetables
Noon to 1 p.m.
Rooster Crowing Contest
1 to 2 p.m.
Animal Story Time - Rabbits
2 to 3 p.m.
Animal Story Time - Swine
3 to 4 p.m.
Animal Story Time - Goats
3 to 4 p.m.
Oxen Demo

CARNIVAL AREA

Noon to 6 p.m.
Pay One Price
\$22 plus admission

GREENHOUSE

All day
Judging of Adult Horticulture
Classes of Flower & Garden
Expo

HORSE SHOW

All day
Horses of Color, Costume,
Old Timers
Mini, Pony Hunter, Leadline,
Short Stirrup Classes
USEF \$250 Mens/Womens
Western Pleasure
USEF \$500 Open Western
Pleasure

MILLER LITE OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT AREA

All day
Monster Truck Rides
\$7 per rider
6 to 7 p.m.
Horseshoe Tournament
Bring Your Own Partner.
5:30 p.m. sign-in. Free.

PERFORMING ARTS TENT

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Children's Activities by
NORWESCAP
2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Little Royalty
5 to 7 p.m.
Favorite Doll and Me Look-
a-Like Fashion Show
7 to 8 p.m.
Georges Wines
Come taste and learn about
local wines and pairing of wine
with your favorite foods.
8:30 to 10 p.m.
North Jersey Concert Band

RICHARDS BUILDING

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Cupcake Decorating
Contest for Kids
Registration at 10 a.m. for the
first 75 children; judging at 12:30
p.m.
2 to 3 p.m.
16th Annual Gingerbread
Building Contest "Railroad
Stations"

RONETCO SHOPRITE FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT AREA

All day
Elephant, Pony and Camel
Rides
For an extra charge kids
can ride on an elephant, pony
or camel. Show times posted.
All day
K-9s in Flight
Show times posted.
All day
Robinson's Paddling Porkers
Racing Porkers swim for
cookies. Show times posted.
All day
Coconut Climbing Trees
For an extra charge kids
can climb these coconut trees.
Show times posted
All day
Commerford Petting Zoo
All day
Oscar the Robot
3 to 4 p.m.
Kiddie Tractor Pull

SNOOK MUSEUM

All day
Weaving and Woodworking
Demos Daily



A baby chick stays warm in the sunlight while on display in the Small Animal Barn at the New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show.



The Agricultural Area at the New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show is featuring an Animal of The Day daily.

Fair attendees can learn more about small animals today at the fair in the tent next to the small animal barn.

Small animals big on love



Photos by Ashley Schreyer/New Jersey Herald

Mikaela Becker, 10, of Sandyston, sits down with her rabbit Chocolate Chip in the Small Animal Barn at the New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show.

Furry companions need just as much care as larger pets

By ASHLEY SCHREYER
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There are few things the animals located in the small animal barn at the New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show have in common. Some have feathered wings while others have fur, and many have twitching whiskers while others have pointed beaks. However, there is one thing these small animals do share: They are today's Animal of the Day at the fair.

While Sussex County ranks seventh in the state for the value of sales of poultry, according to the USDA 2007 Census of Agriculture, it has more rabbit farms than any other county in New Jersey.

There are many reasons owners at the fair decided to breed and show their small animal of choice. Michael Schwartz, of Sparta, has always loved hens and wanted to own them. "When you are having a bad day, you can go out and hang with them. They're a great friend to have," Schwartz said.

Mikaela Becker, 10, of Sandyston, also shares that friendship with her rabbit Chocolate Chip. "They're fun to play with and cuddle with," Becker said while snuggling up to her furry companion.

However, owning these small animals is not all fun and games. A serious disease rabbit owners need to watch out for is malocclusion, which occurs when a rabbit's teeth do not line up properly. Because rab-

bit teeth continue to grow throughout their lives, the teeth need to align correctly in order to naturally file them down. When they don't, breeders need to cut the teeth to protect the rabbit.

"Raising rabbits takes a lot of work," Rabbit and Small Animal Princess Mackenzie Kratzsch, 17, of Newton said. "It's not just feeding and giving them water every day." Rabbits are not the only small animals in need of special care. Chinchillas must bathe in a specially formulated dust bath to keep clean because water can ruin their uniquely soft fur.

Kratzsch owns 20 rabbits along with guinea pigs and chinchillas, and warns that you have to watch what you feed to your animal. However, Michael Schwartz of Sparta, jokes that you can feed hens just about anything.

"They'll eat each other if you let them," Schwartz said while holding one of his old English hens.

Though they have many differences, small animals are judged similarly — more on appearance and less on performance.

"They (judges) look for good coloring; if they have all of their toes," Gabby Johnson, 12, of Wantage, said while holding her guinea pig Peanut Butter. Schwartz also explained that fowls are judged on appearances as well, such as beaks, clean feet and feathers.

While mixed-breed rabbits, like ones found at a pet store, can compete in 4-H shows, Kratzsch says only purebred rab-



Peanut Butter, a guinea pig owned by Gabby Johnson, 12, of Wantage, sits on a table in the Small Animal Barn at the New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show.

bits can be entered in the national shows she competes in across the country.

Mercedes Koppenaar, 15, doesn't know the breed of her rescued rabbit. The Hampton resident saved four rabbits after a neighbor abandoned them outside their home. Now Koppenaar owns one of the rabbits rescued after finding homes for the other three.

"We found a little black rabbit hopping around our yard one day," she said. "I don't know why anyone would want to abandon them."

Did you know?

- Hens will eat just about anything, even each other.
- Rabbits teeth continue to grow throughout their lives.
- Water ruins a chinchilla's fur, so they bathe in a dust bath.
- A chicken egg will hatch in 21 days.
- Rabbits are very territorial.



Visit njherald.com for a video of small animals at the fair.

A FAIR QUESTION

What is your favorite animal at the fair?



Carol Riggs, Hampton

"I like the goats. When I was younger, I lived on a farm and we had goats. I was the one who took care of them."



Daryl Michael, Stillwater

"Really, all kinds of animals, but if I had to pick just one, I would like cows."



Troy Rusnack, Sussex Borough

"Oh that's easy. Cows. It's not the ones that give milk," (showing a cell-phone picture of himself cheek-to-cheek with a Hereford.)



Tom Jabaut, Paramus

"Chickens. When we come to the fair, we always head for the chickens first. I guess the 'silky' ones are my favorite."

FLOWER SHOW RESULTS

Professional Horticulture	Florist - Sussex
Basket-Alice in Wonderland	3rd - Petals Florist - Franklin
1st - Karen Langenbach - Newton	Blue Hawaii
2nd - Fair Acres Farm - Sussex	1st - Stone Brook Florist - Branchville
3rd - Kuperus Farmside Gardens & Florist - Sussex	2nd - Flower Box - Sparta
Window box-Ladies in Lavender	3rd - Kuperus Farmside Gardens & Florist - Sussex
1st - Kuperus Farmside Gardens & Florist - Sussex	Florist - Sussex
2nd - Fair Acres Farm - Sussex	Chariots of Fire
Creative Contan-The artist	1st - Wards Flowers - Blairstown,
1st - Fair Acres Farm - Sussex	2nd - Kuperus Farmside Gardens & Florist - Sussex
2nd - Kuperus Farmside Gardens & Florist - Sussex	3rd - Karen Brand - Sparta
Best in Show Horticulture - Karen Langenbach - Newton	On Golden Pond
Professional Artistic	1st - Kuperus Farmside Gardens & Florist - Sussex
White Christmas	3rd - Flower Box - Sparta
1st - Wards Flowers - Blairstown	Best in Show Artistic - Kuperus Farmside Gardens & Florist - Sussex
2nd - Kuperus Farmside Gardens & Florist - Sussex	People's Choice - Wards Flowers - Blairstown

WIN AN iPad!

We'll See You at the State Fair!

While at the Fair stop by the CenturyLink booth on Park Road across from the Family Entertainment Area for your chance to win a 32 GB Apple® - iPad® with Retina® display with Wi-Fi.



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