

Showing Sheep is a Family Affair for the Gibsons

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Sheep showing is a family tradition for the Gibson family. Kaylee Gibson, 17, has shown sheep since she was only four-years-old. She is also a fourth generation shower as her great-grandfather, grandfather, her mom and aunts also showed. Gibson's siblings and cousins also show sheep.

Gibson said there are many different things the judges are looking for at the show. They are looking for sheep to be structurally correct, good boned and one that shows good breed characteristics.

Gibson said it's an important step to pick out the best sheep to get into the ring. "This job is mainly for

my brother and granddaddy," said Kaylee.

The next step is to wash and shear the sheep and then finally break them and get them ready to go out in the show ring.

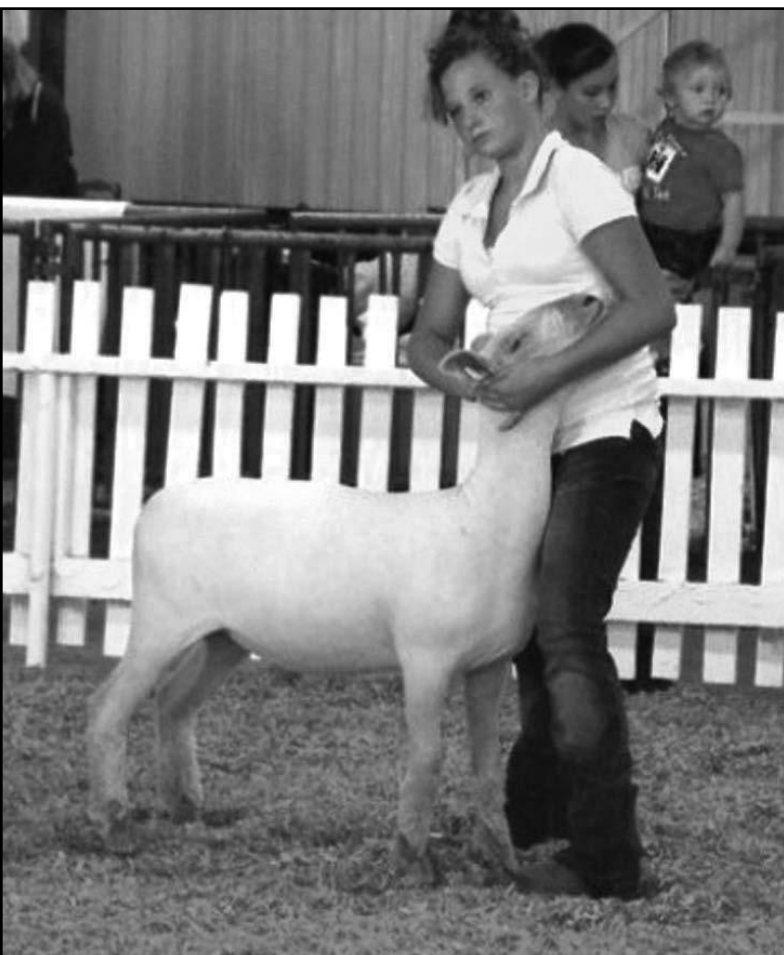
Gibson looks forward to the Kentucky State Fair every year. "The state fair is like my vacation, we leave Monday morning and we come back Sunday afternoon. We have to feed and water the sheep every morning and night and then we show twice throughout the week, and the other times we walk around and look at the other exhibits and of course we shop some," said Gibson.

She has a few favorite memories from her time showing. She was most excited when she won showmanship in her class at the state fair.

She also can't help but laugh when she remembers being drug around the show ring by a sheep.

Gibson just graduated from Mercer County Senior High School this spring and is planning to attend Kentucky State University, where she will play softball. She hopes to major in interdisciplinary early childhood education.

Despite this next step in her life, sheep showing is something Gibson hopes to see stick around in her family for many years to come.



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Mercer County native Kaylee Gibson has been showing sheep since she was 4-years-old and will continue the tradition this year at the Mercer County Fair.



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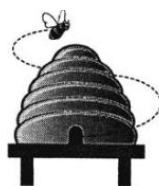
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