



# News Release

## For Immediate Release

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### **Lamb Show winners selected at 2023 Florida Strawberry Festival**

PLANT CITY, Fla. (March 15, 2023) – The winners in the Florida Strawberry Festival’s lamb shows were this week at the Patterson Companies Livestock Arena in the Grimes Family Agricultural Center.

Four competitions are held for lamb exhibitors: showmanship, a jumping contest, a sheep show and costume contest.

In the showmanship competition, where exhibitors are judged on their ability to present their animals, exhibitors are separated into beginner, junior, intermediate and senior categories.

In the beginner showmanship division, Noreen Doyle placed first, Josie Clark placed second and Reece Patino placed third.

In the junior showmanship division, Makenzie Paul placed first, Shelby Southerland placed second and Brock Sampson placed third.

In the intermediate division, Gracie Lopez placed first, Brighton Willis placed second and Ashlyn Clark placed third.

In the senior division, Riley Silkworth placed first, Kaylee Snyder placed second and Nadia Rhoten placed third.

In the jumping contest, a hurdle is placed in the arena that the participating sheep jump over. Each sheep jumps the hurdle at each height, and the hurdle is continuously raised until only one sheep remains as the winner.

In the short-legged division, Kylieann Fitzenburg’s lamb won first place, Carter Lynch’s lamb won second and Sarah Menendez’s lamb and Autumn Brazil’s lamb tied for third place.

In the long-legged division, Serenity Keating’s lamb won first place, Sophia Brownell’s lamb won second place and Braxton Willis’ lamb won third place.

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In the lamb show, the animals are judged on their breeding characteristics and the likelihood that they will produce a quality lamb.

Kaylee Snyder's lamb won grand champion black face ewe and Riley Silkworth's lamb won reserve champion black face ewe. Ruca Rhonton's lamb won grand champion black face ram and Julia Jones's lamb won reserve champion black face ram.

Emma Leiss' lamb won grand champion white face ewe and won reserve grand champion white face ewe. Emma Leiss' lamb won grand champion white face ram and Peyton Eatman's lamb won reserve grand champion white face ram.

Makenzie Paul's lamb won grand champion crossbred ewe and Riley Silkworth's lamb won reserve grand champion crossbred ewe. Lila Potter's lamb won grand champion crossbred ram and Samuel Potter's lamb won reserve grand champion crossbred ram.

Cadience Mountain's lamb won grand champion rare breed ewe, Harrison Kinney's lamb won reserve grand champion rare breed ewe, Hannah Sevret's lamb won grand champion rare breed ram and Julia Jones' lamb won reserve grand champion rare breed ram.

Emma Leiss won overall grand champion.

In the costume contest, Ruca Rhoton won the "funniest" category with his "Sheep For Sale" costume, Reid Patino won the "most original" category with his "We Have a Nascar Winner" costume, Noreen Doyle won the "most elegant" category with her "Strawberry Shortcake" costume, Reece Patino won the "most creative" category with her "Headed to the Winners Circle" costume, Josie Clark won the "most colorful" category with her "Pinkie Pie" costume and Mackinley Jensen, Braxton Willis, Brightyn Willis and Adelyn Jensen won "best overall" with their "You Got a Friend in Me- Toy Story" costume.

### **About the Florida Strawberry Festival**

The Florida Strawberry Festival is an 11-day community event celebrating the strawberry harvest of Eastern Hillsborough County. Each year, more than 600,000 visitors enjoy the festival's headline entertainment, youth livestock shows, exhibits of commerce and, of course, its strawberry shortcake. The 2024 Florida Strawberry Festival will take place February 29 through March 10 in Plant City, Fla. For more information, visit [www.flstrawberryfestival.com](http://www.flstrawberryfestival.com), Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (#berryfest24).

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