

# 4-H Members Excel at the 2022 Great Allentown Fair Queen Contest

By Kelly M. Weisner, Extension Educator, 4-H/Youth Development

ALLENTOWN - Two Lehigh County 4-H members recently had great success in the 2022 Great Allentown Fair Queen Contest. Members Allison Emanuel and Kamryn Fink vied for the title alongside three other young women, to represent the fair and agriculture.

Contestants participated in different segments to the competition including evening own/introduction, speech presentation, impromptu question, and essay/application.

At the conclusion of the contest, the title of the Allentown Fair Queen was presented to Allison Emanuel of Laury's Station.

Kamryn Fink, of Germansville, was the First Alternate and was also awarded the newly developed Nancy Decker Meaney Community Service Award.

Judge Mike Firestine remarked, "It was apparent the top two candidates were 4-H members. They had confidence, poise, and public speaking skills."

When asked about 4-H, Allison said, "4-H has helped me by instilling skills such as leadership, public speaking, and hard work. I used those skills while talking with pillars in our community, promoting agriculture, and during the contest itself. I can guarantee that without 4-H, I would not have won the title of 2022 Allentown Fair Queen."

Both young women are actively involved in the Lehigh County 4-H program. Allison is a member of the Potato Judging Club, President of the Farm to Table Club, and an officer of Teen Council. She received the Lehigh County 4-H Teen Initiative Award in 2019 & 2021, as well as the 4-H Green, White, Bronze & Silver Clover Awards. Kamryn is involved in the Potato Judging Club, Livestock Club and Cooking Club. A few of her accomplishments include 4-H Clover Awards, Outstanding 4-H Project Books for market goats and hogs, and attendance of PA Agriscience Summit, Capital Days and State Leadership Conference on scholarship.

The contest was held opening night of the fair, August 31st at 7:30pm on the Farmerama Stage.



From left: Judge Roberto Vincas, 2021 Allentown Fair Queen Mackenzie Blatt, 2022 Allentown Fair Queen Allison Emanuel, First Alternate Kamryn Fink, Judge Erin Anthony, Judge Mike Firestine

## Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

## Warm and Green

Efficiency of a heat pump is hard to understand unless you are a refrigeration geek like me. To explain in the simplest terms, a heat pump uses refrigerant, a compressor, and several other components to make heat more efficiently than electric heat, therefore it is less expensive. The catch is that there are moving parts and maintenance required for a heat pump. So if it is only marginally more efficient than electric heat, do you still win? The answer is yes because a heat pump also is an air conditioner. An air to air heat pump uses outdoor air to create the heat it supplies to your home. It DOES NOT bring outside air into your home. It uses refrigerant to carry the energy through 2 copper tubes that run between the indoor and outdoor units. Now that you understand how a heat pump works, you can get confused about efficiency. A typical heat pump that can produce 36,000 btus of heat does just that at 47° outdoor temperature. When it gets colder outside there is less heat available in the air so a heat pump loses capacity. Typically at 15° outdoor temperature a heat pump can only provide half of its rated capacity. So when you need more heat, you get less. High efficiency heat pumps can produce almost all of their capacity down to 5° outdoor temp. That's a huge improvement because whenever the outdoor unit falls behind, the backup heater comes on to make up the difference and that is all electric like a giant toaster oven inside your duct.

New efficiency standards take over in January of 2023 and that make a lot of current heat pumps obsolete because they don't meet the new minimum standard. It may be a good thing unless you can't afford one. A few of the changes are that they need to produce more heat at lower temperatures and the indoor fans must use an efficient motor. In this case efficient also translates to expensive. SEER is the alphabet soup that applies to air conditioners and EER and HSPF is for heat pumps. No room here for the class on that today. The old minimum for air conditioners was 14 SEER. The new standard is called SEER2 and the old 14 is the new 13.4. 14 is still the minimum but for SEER2 it is the same as the old 15 SEER. Manufacturers are tooling up now for next year and they are flushing all their units out the door.

Let's hope the transition is not painful for us all.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com



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