

Lancaster Farming

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At Swine Producers Show

Manheim Farm Has Best Hog

Dutton Valley Farms of Manheim had the best of 19 pigs entered in the annual carcass show sponsored this week by the Lancaster County Swine Producers Association.

The winning pig weighed 216 pounds. It had one inch of back fat and 7.6 square inches of loin eye.

The winner's ham and loin was determined to be 41.8 per cent of the total carcass weight.

The winner was decided on the basis of the best ham and loin percentage, provided the meat quality was accepted, Robert Martin, association president, explained.

The pigs were judged informally by the Swine Producers at a live show at the Lancaster Stockyards Tuesday, then the butchered animals were judged and ranked by Dwight Youngkin, Penn State livestock specialist, at Martin's Meat Market in Bridgeport Thursday afternoon.

To be eligible, the pig had to weigh between 190 and 220 pounds. The pigs averaged between

four and five months' old, Martin said.

The other top 10 animals listed by owner, live weight, back fat, loin eye, and ham and loin percentage, are as follows.

- 2 Real Farms, 212, 11 inches, 6.0 square inches, 41.7 per cent
- 3 John Strawbridge, 205, 9 inch, 5.3 square inches, 40.4 per cent
- 4 Masonic Homes Farm, Elizabethtown, 208, 9 inch, 4.7 square inches, 40.1 per cent
- 5 Bob Armstrong, 194, 1.1 inches, 6.0 square inches, 39.1 per cent
- 6 Melvin Huber, 204, 12 inches, 5.6 square inches, 38.9 per cent
- 7 George Smith, 212, 10 inch, 5.5 square inches, 38.4 per cent
- 8 Richard Sholley, 205, 13 inches, 4.6 square inches, 37.3 per cent
- 9 Franklin Ruoss, 195, 12 inches, 4.8 square inches, 36.6 per cent
- 10 Paul Bollinger, 200, 9 inch 5.8 square inches, 36.5 per cent

Martin describing the Lancaster Stockyards judging event Tuesday as "educational" to bring swine producers "together, allow comparison of hogs, provide for education of farmers to keep ideas open so we don't lose our sight as to what is a good hog."

In the carcass judging Thursday, he said "the breeder can see if he has a superior sire and it also lets you know how his (the sire's) offspring perform." He termed it "a good management tool to get a better hog."

On Tuesday, the swine producers judged John Strawbridge's Hampshire gilt the number one pig. But on the day of decision Thursday, it was found they were close, but not tight. The Hampshire gilt was third.

Martin explained the meatiness of a hog, which is actually what was being evaluated at the carcass show, is largely determined

by the boar, particularly over a long term swine program.

Since meatiness is the goal, a good boar is vitally important, Martin said.

Unfortunately, he noted swine growers only get about a 15 cents per hundredweight premium on the auction market for a meaty hog.

"We need to educate the buyer to the importance of good hogs." He added that the "buyer knows what a good hog is. Maybe the hogs run through the ring too fast."

But by selling directly to the butcher, hog producers can get a

premium of about \$1 to \$1.50 per hundredweight for meaty hogs.

That means an extra \$2 or more a head. If the hog producer sells about a 1,000 head a year, this means he gets enough extra for his meaty hogs so that the good boar "will pay for itself."

Martin believes that once the auction people find out "they're losing out to direct selling, they're going to have to pay a premium for the better hogs."

He conceded that unless the producer does sell directly to the butcher for a premium price there's not much incentive at present for growing good hogs.



Carl B. Herr

Renomes Herr President County Extension Assn.

Carl B. Herr, 840 Penn Grant Road, Lancaster, was re-elected president of the board of directors of the Lancaster County Agricultural and Home Economics Extension Association at a noon meeting Thursday at the Meadow Hills Dining House.

The only new officer elected to the board was James G. Krieder of Quarryville RD1. He is vice president.

Re-elected were Mrs. David E. Buckwater, Lititz RD3 secretary, and Melvin G. Rohrer, Lititz RD3 treasurer.

The board will meet bi-monthly on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Farm and Home Center.

Burkholder Re-elected State Poultry Chairman

Benjamin Burkholder, New Holland, has been re-elected chairman of the Pennsylvania Poultry Marketing Advisory Council at a recent meeting in Harrisburg.

Harry Metz, Belleville, was re-named vice president, and Fred Bloom, Bird-In-Hand, was elected secretary.

The Poultry Council is one of nine commodity councils appointed by State Agriculture Secretary Leland H. Bull, to study marketing opportunities and changing marketing patterns, to establish better communications in all phases of marketing, and to provide closer liaison between producers and the Agriculture Department.

Farm Calendar

- Saturday, March 14**
1:00 pm — Farm Women Society #7, Leacock Presbyterian Church
6:30 pm — Farm Women Society #2, Banquet at Giff's Farm near Mt Joy

- Monday, March 16**
7:30 pm — Sewage Disposal

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Robert Martin, President of the Lancaster County Swine Producers Association, is shown Tuesday in the Lancaster Stockyards with the Hampshire gilt of John Strawbridge of Stewartstown. In in-

formal judging, the swine producers had judged the Hampshire as the best of 19 animals submitted, but in the actual carcass judging Thursday the animal was third.