

L. Arnold

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sows, four herd boars, and three-hundred head of young stock is kept on his father's small farm just outside of Lebanon. With no farming ground available to him, Leon has been purchasing all of his feed. A list of equipment therefore includes nothing other than a tractor, loader, manure spreader and a pick-up truck. That may change when the 39-year-old Lebanon Countian moves his animals to his own farm this spring.

Individual farrowing shelters are the center of the Leann hog operation. Each is a small "house" measuring 6'x7', with a 6'x6' porch added on. This is where a sow gives birth to her young when her 114-day gestation period is complete. The goal is to farrow 60 litters per year.

Leon says keeping a farrowing schedule is very important to him as well as other purebred breeders because most of their youngstock has to be ready at certain times of the year for various breeders club's sales. Weaning weights and ages are consequently secondary considerations so that sows may come in heat again and produce the next litter on schedule. The majority of Leon's boars and open gilts are sold for breeding purposes through the Pennsylvania Yorkshire Club sales. A few animals are sold privately.

Leon raises an average of 9.2 pigs from each litter. "Ten to twelve is most desirable", he says, "and I've had as many as 17 in one litter. One of his most outstanding sows has had 8 litters for a total of 141 offspring, of which 94 were raised. Most sows in his herd have only two or three litters before they're sold to make room for younger animals.

The baby pigs are ear-notched for identification shortly after they're born. Each receives one-quarter c.c. of Tylan 200 for prevention of navel infections and 1 c.c. of iron for

prevention of anemia. Needle teeth are cut if necessary. Hog starter, mixed with sow feed, is provided to them until they reach a weight of about 70 lbs. Weaning usually takes place at 6-8 weeks of age, depending largely on the schedule of the sow.

Once the litters are removed from their dams, they are housed and fed in a remodeled barn containing seven spacious pens, each of which can accommodate between 25 and 30 large pigs. Their feed is a mixture of 1500 lbs. shelled corn and 500 pounds of a 37-percent concentrate especially formulated for swine. In addition to vitamins and minerals, it consists of all vegetable protein, made mostly from soybeans and alfalfa.

Gestating sows receive five pounds of shelled corn and two pounds of concentrate every other day. Leon explains that the timid sow can get her feed better by only feeding every other day. Lactating sows, on the other hand, are fed daily and have their feed ground up.

Sows are kept outside because Leon has observed that his animals are healthier in outdoor conditions. He points out that until last fall he did not have any scour problems in six years. Gilts go outside at breeding age, which is normally 7-8 months. They are mated every 24 hours during their heat period to increase chances of conception.

Leon, the second oldest of 13 children, graduated from South Lebanon High School in 1952. He was a member of the Iona FFA chapter and held the office of president during his senior year. Upon graduation he became more involved with his pigs and joined the American Yorkshire Club. Other organizations of which he is a member are: Pennsylvania Pork Producers; Lancaster County Swine Producers; Cedar Crest



Lebanon County's Leon Arnold was honored with a Pork All American Award by the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council at their annual meeting last Saturday in Lancaster.

Young Farmers; Pennsylvania Farmers Association; and Tri-County Pork Producers, of which he is serving as vice president.

Among the many awards and special recognition bestowed on Leann Yorkshires are: Excellent Meat Sire, 1969; and Sire of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania State Evaluation Center. The herd was recognized in 1972 for recording over 100 registered Yorkshires. Last year Leon produced three champion and three reserve champion bred gilts. At this year's Farm Show he took first and second in the junior class, and 4th and 7th in the senior class. The champion carcass hog at last October's Lancaster County Swine Producers Show also came out of the Leann herd.

More recognition has come to Leon as a result of his DHIA work. He is the recipient of a plaque award

(1965) and 13 awards of merit. He is presently supervising 42 DHIA and owner-sampler herds in Lebanon County. Organizers of the Lebanon Area Fair frequently tap his knowledge and experience, and he has served 17 years as a 4-H leader. He serves as swine chairman of that organization.

Leon, his wife, Ann, and their five children: Michael, 17; Patricia, 16; Kathleen, 15; Bonita, 11; and

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could visit Sperry New Holland, one of the oldest sponsors of the FFA foundation. The local farm equipment manufacturer has been a sponsor for the past 25 years.

This year, the firm has increased its support of the organization by co-sponsoring a \$14,000 beef production proficiency award program.

Another stop on the tour was the vo-ag department at Garden Spot High School. The local department offers one of the most comprehensive programs in the country, and is possibly unique in offering agricultural instruction beginning in kindergarten and continuing on through grade school, high school

Thomas, 9, live at 1245 E. Cumberland St. in Lebanon. Son Thomas is showing an early interest in hogs and is often included among names of advertisers, showmen, and consigners of the Pennsylvania Yorkshire Co-op Association, Inc., of which his father serves as secretary-treasurer. The entire family worships at St. Gertrude's Catholic Church, where Leon is a member of the Holy Name Society.

Leon believes that the hog business has a good future. He cites the scarcity of really good boars as his only concern at the present time. He is encouraged by the demand for boars. "A prime hesitation of buyers used to be price," he says, "but they're getting away from that."

and the young farmer program. The officers expressed special interest in the expansion of FFA activities down into grade school levels.

The group came to Lancaster County from Philadelphia, where they visited the Insurance Company of North America, and left Wednesday evening for New York City.



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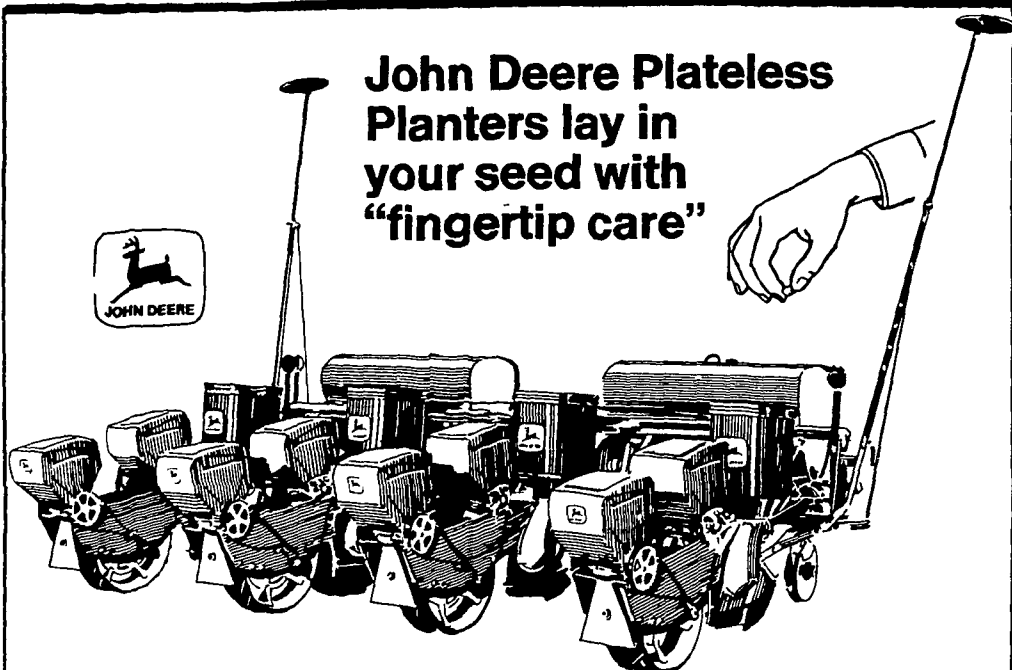
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