

Berks Co. FFA Market Hog Show

The Berks County FFA Market Hog Show and Sale was held on Wednesday August 14, 1974 at the Leesport Market and Auction. A total of 89 hogs were shown and sold by 19 different FFA members. Judge for the show was Mr. Dennis Grumbine, former Pa. FFA President and hog breeder in Lebanon County.

The Grand Champion Hog was shown by Glenn Christman, of RD2 Kutztown, from the Kutztown Chapter. The Reserve Champion hog was shown by Marlin Dietrich, of RD1 Kempton, also from the Kutztown Chapter. Both hogs were purchased by the Hatfield Packing Company, Hatfield, Pennsylvania - the

Grand Champion for \$.60 per pound and the Reserve Champion for \$.44 per pound.

In the lightweight class (180 to 210 pounds), Elton Muth from RD1 Albutis, Brandywine Chapter, exhibited the first place hog. Marlin Dietrich exhibited the second place hog, Robert Tercha, RD2 Mertztown, Brandywine Chapter, third; Frank Stoltzfus, RD2 Elverson, Twin Valley Chapter, fourth; Melvin Houck, RD2 Elverson, Twin Valley Chapter, fifth; and Eddie Fishburn, RD3 Wernersville, Conrad Weiser Chapter, sixth.

Glenn Christman exhibited the first place medium weight hog. Loron Moyer of RD1 Richland, Tulpehocken

Chapter, second place; Elton Muth, third; Cathy Muth, RD1 Albutis, Brandywine Chapter, fourth; Marlin Dietrich, fifth; and Robert Tercha, sixth.

In the heavy weight class, Glenn Christman was first, Marlin Dietrich second, Loron Moyer third, Elton Muth, fourth; Frank Stoltzfus fifth; and Cathy Muth sixth. The First place heavy weight hog was the Grand Champion, while the second place heavy weight hog was the Reserve Champion.

In the Fitting Contest, Loron Moyer was the first place Junior Fitter. Continuing in the Junior Division - Robert Gerhart, RD1 Wernersville, Conrad Weiser Chapter, second; Melvin Houck, third; Walter Wanner, RD1 Wernersville, Conrad Weiser Chapter, fourth; Eddie Fishburn, fifth; and Robert Stoltzfus, RD2 Elverson, Twin Valley Chapter, sixth.

In the Senior division of the fitting contest, Marlin

Dietrich placed first; Cathleen Muth, second; Robert Tercha, third; Frank Stoltzfus, fourth; Glenn Christman, fifth; and Steve Conrad, Bowers, Kutztown Chapter, sixth. Marlin Dietrich received the Champion Fitter Ribbon, Cathy Muth the Reserve Champion fitter award.

In the Junior Division of the Showmanship Contest, Robert Stoltzfus received first place; Melvin Houck received second; Norman Manbeck, RD1 Womelsdorf, Conrad Weiser Chapter, third; Walter Wanner, fourth; Bryan Schoener, RD1 Womelsdorf, Conrad Weiser Chapter, fifth; and Loron Moyer, sixth. In the Senior Division of the Showmanship Contest, Robert Tercha placed first, Elton Muth second, Frank Stoltzfus third, Marlin Dietrich fourth, Glen Christman fifth, and Cathy Muth sixth. Robert Tercha received the Champion Showman Award, Elton Muth the Reserve Champion award.

All hogs shown were sold at auction in the afternoon, Mr. Alvin Horning being the auctioneer. Total live weight marketed was 19,539, total value of the sale \$7,877.93, with an average price per pound of \$.4032. Besides purchasing the Grand and Reserve Champions, Hatfield also purchased 46 other hogs. Other buyers were Leesport Market, 21 head; Ben Martin, RD1 Denver, 15 head; and Adam Butz, East Texas, 5 head.

The Berks County FFA wishes to thank all buyers for their support. We also wish to thank LeRoy and John Weist for the use of their facilities, and for their continued support.

Rate Increased Land Bank

The interest rate on new long-term farm mortgage loans and rural housing loans through the Federal Land Bank of Baltimore will increase to 9 percent on September 1. The announcement was made by President E. G. Fouse who said that increasing rates of Federal Land Bank bond issues, the primary source of lending funds for the institution, has necessitated the upward adjustment from the 8 percent rate in effect since October, 1973.

The increase will affect all loans made since 1969 when the variable rate contract was introduced. The variable contract, an innovative tool in the farm mortgage business allows a borrower's interest to rise and fall to a marked degree with money market fluctuations. Fouse illustrated this by discussing the credit crunch of 1969-70, pointing out that contracts had been written at 9 percent then. Subsequently, more favorable rates on the

Bank's bond issues permitted several reductions in the rate charged on the variable rate contracts. This concept has proven to be advantageous both to borrowers and the Bank.

The Bank's interest charges to its borrowers are set to cover the average cost of its many bond issues outstanding, its operating costs, and needed additions to reserves. The Bank is wholly owned by 17,000 member-borrowers through their ownership of the stock in 26 local Federal Land Bank Associations in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Puerto Rico.

The Bank has in excess of \$565 Million in farm mortgage loans outstanding. Additionally, it has over \$24 Million in rural housing loans to rural non-farm residents. The Bank, along with eleven other cooperative Land Banks, operates under the Farm Credit Act of 1971.

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