

Swine breeders tour York County hog farm

by: Melissa Piper

Swine breeders from both Lancaster and York counties toured the farm and hog operation of Jerry Rutt on Thursday evening July 10.

The Rutt farm, which is located near Dover in York County, is a commercial feeder pig operation. Rutt keeps an average of 450 sows and 21 boars which produce some 5000 feeder pigs for sale each year.

Over the past few years,

Rutt has built an extensive hog operation which includes some of the most modern facilities.

A new farrowing wing of Rutt's buildings, is complete with farrowing crates and tile lined pens which aid in sanitation control.

From the farrowing house, the young pigs - three days of age, are moved with the sows to block pens in another wing where they stay until four to five weeks of age.

Two sows and their litters occupy one pen area.

Following their stay in the block pens, the pigs are moved to yet another area where they kept until nine weeks old. At 50-60 pounds the pigs are then marketed either at the Westminster Feeder Pig Sale in Maryland or at the Lancaster Feeder Pig Sales.

Rutt uses several different breeds of hogs for crossbreeding purposes



The new farrowing facilities in the Rutt building has room for 20 sows. Glenn Spangler (center) Ag teacher

at Manheim Central, contemplates the tile lined pens and farrowing crates.



At the Rutt farm, young pigs are kept with the sows in block pens until being moved to finishing areas. Two

sows and their litters occupy one pen. A manure pit is located under the slatted floors.

including Duroc, Yorkshire, Chester White, Hampshire and Spotted Swine. Although Rutt raises most of his replacement gilts on the farm, he buys different breeds of boars from area producers.

Following the tour of Rutt's facilities, the swine breeders and their families were treated to refreshments including pork barbecue sandwiches.

Some 30 members from the Lancaster Association attended the event with a number of producers from York and Lebanon Counties also in attendance.

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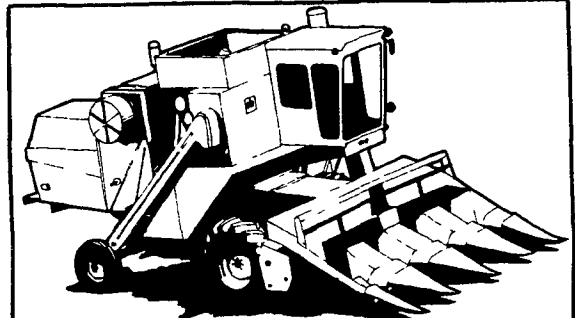
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