

Swine producer wins award



Rick Pfautz, Stevens, helps out at his family's roadside market along with raising Duroc swine breeding stock. The American Farming Degree recipient is shown stacking pumpkins at the market.



Making figures from squash and pumpkins have become a hobby of the Pfautz family. Rick shows a

squash "piglet" constructed in his honor by his mother.

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Also active in FFA judging teams, Rick served on the dairy products judging team which placed first in state competition and went on the national judging contest; he also participated on the award winning livestock judging team and joined the state team headed for Kansas City in 1971.

The Stevens area youth also judged on the meat and land judging teams at the local level.

Along with raising the swine, Rick also kept excellent records of his enterprise which were judged as outstanding several times during his FFA career.

Choose Duroc Breed "Red Power" has been the by-word of Rick's swine operation as the young man selected the Duroc breed for his enterprise. "I chose the Duroc breed because they seemed to be keeping pace with the modern type of hog required in the market today."

"There's also not many breeders in this state and improving the breed is essential," the youth related.

Rick currently has some 20 sows with about 150 pigs altogether. While raising breeding stock is his main interest, Rick also grows some market hog for sale.

"I'm trying to build up a good herd of breeding stock," Rick noted. "Constant buying is required and I've gone to the midwest to get some of my animals."

When asked his impressions of the hog market, Rick smiled and nodded his head, "well it has been good but I see prices will lower some in the future."

"Usually when a market is good, everyone starts raising more, but in this cast I don't think we'll see a flooded market," the youth noted.

"Because of the costs, producers aren't increasing their herds as quickly and perhaps the market will stay high."

"Every hog producer learns that the market is never stable and I as well as everyone else had to learn that lesson."

While Rick has been successful raising breeding stock, the youth has also been shown several champion sows, gilts and market hogs in the show ring.

At last year's state Duroc sale, Rick exhibited the grand champion gilt and has

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When he failed to do this, he exclaimed, "How foolish I have been to think that I could make all men believe alike about religion when I cannot even make two clocks run together."

shown grand champions at all the area fairs and FFA shows. And along with exhibiting champions, the youth has also won numerous awards for fitting and showmanship.

Rick explained that he had been encouraged to apply for the American Farming Degree by his FFA advisor, Lewis Ayers. "Since it was the last degree in FFA, I thought I'd apply and see what happened."

"I'm happy that I was chosen to receive it as it gives you a feeling of accomplishment."

Rick will be receiving his degree next week in Kansas City. And while the youth will be attending the National FFA Conference, He is also taking a livestock trailer with him so he can do some work. "I want to buy some more hogs so I may as well combine business with pleasure."

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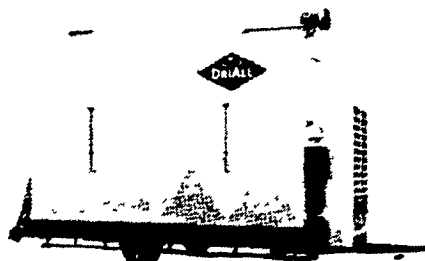
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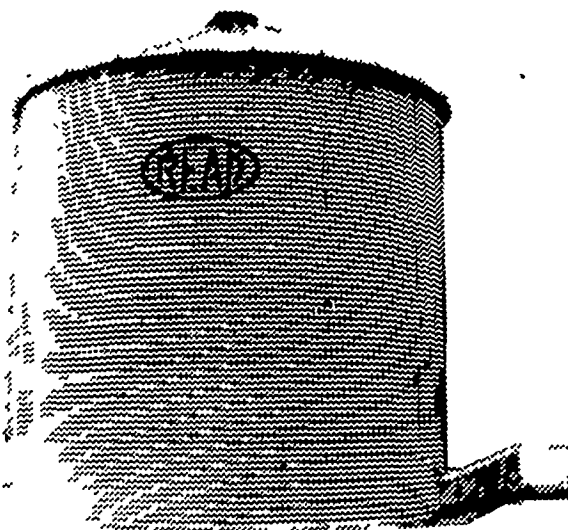
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