

Berks County farmer reflects on hog industry

By Pat Bradley
Berks Co.
Correspondent

STATE HILL - Yorkshire and Hampshire hogs have been the livelihood of Calvin Lash, State Hill, since 1931. According to Lash, he bought his first Yorkshire in Canada at a cattle deal in 1931. Since then he has gone from breeding exclusively Yorkshires to breeding exclusively Hampshires and then back again to Yorkshires. The reason for the change in breeds, according to Lash, was due mainly to the fact that Yorkshires were hard to come by when they were first introduced into the

United States. He remarked that he could buy Yorkshire boars at that time but couldn't buy any females, so he raised Hampshires for awhile until the market changed.

Lash has, in the past, owned champion boars such as: Curtiss Candy Damon, a Yorkshire from the Curtiss Candy Farm in Cary, Ill., Gravel Ridge Prince, a Yorkshire bred by William Pickney and Sons, Cookville, Ont., Canada and Maryland Roller, a Hampshire considered to be the best of his breed east of the Mississippi about 30 years ago.

Lash said he has gone back to breeding Yorkshires

because they're a popular breed. This popularity according to Lash, is mainly because they're good mullers, they produce large litters and they're not a fatty hog. The Yorkshire was the top breed in sales in 1948, he added.

Because of his interest in the Yorkshire breed, Lash became involved in the Yorkshire Club. Established in Nov. of 1946, Lash was the first secretary for the club.

The club, which is still in existence today, is mainly interested in Yorkshire shows and sales. Members attended sales in Jan., Feb., March and August at the Lebanon Fair Grounds. During these sales the hogs are sold to farmers and breeders from New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, Lash said.

In 1947, when the club first sought to enter its Yorkshires in the Farm Show, they ran into problems, according to Lash. At that time the Yorkshire breed was a relatively new breed in the United States and many of the other contestants showing hogs didn't want to let a new breed into the show, Lash remarked. But, Lash was persistent and finally in mid-summer of 1948, he succeeded in getting spaces for his club's hogs.

Lash has since stopped going to the Farm Show, but he still has his interest in the Yorkshire breed. He currently has 200 Yorkshire hogs on his farm and his present champion boar is Largewood's Solution. The name was established because the boar was supposed to be the solution to all the problems of the Yorkshire breed.



Calvin Lash, a Berks County hog producer, looks at some of his present-day hogs with fond memories

of his accomplishments dating back to 30 years ago.

Winners named in drawing contest

John M. Stoltzfus, Ronks, was the first prize winner in a drawing held at the W. L. Zimmerman and Sons store in Intercourse last Saturday. Stoltzfus won an Eversol Rocking Chair.

Other winners included:
Turkey Winners

Robert Barnett, David E. Beiler, Willis S. Brubaker, John L. Deim, Andrew H. Diener, John E. Esh, Samuel L. Esh, Elam S. Fisher, Suvilla M. Fisher, Dr. R. A. Hartmann, Barbara E. King, Christ K. King, Samuel F. King, Alvin L. Petersheim, Possibilities Unlimited, Isaac Z. Smoker, Terry Smoker, Annie Stoltzfus, Mrs. Gideon K. Stoltzfus, Morris Z. Stoltzfus, Simeon Stoltzfus, Jr., Stephen J. Stoltzfus, Joan M. Sult, Amos Supplee, Mrs. David Yoder.

Breyers Ice Cream
Winners

Samuel B. Bawell, Mrs. Kjell Christiansen, Clyde K. Feister, Wm. Friedrich, Simon Herr, Galen W. Hershey, Sanford E. Hershey, Douglas High, Clyde E. Houck, Earl R. Houck, Benueel K. King, Kathy Kitchen, Harry G. Kreiser, J. Elmer Lapp, Margaret Scarborough, Wm. Skethway, Mrs. Norman B. Smoker, Henry B. Smucker,

Smuckers Engine Shop, Benueel S. Stoltzfus, John F. Stoltzfus, Jonas B. Stoltzfus, David F. Yeager, Sr., Jacob B. Zook, Isaac S. Zook.

Christmas trees listed

The 1975 edition of the popular "Choose And Cut" directory of Maryland Christmas Tree farms will be available to the public December 1st by mail.

The directory lists 20 Maryland tree plantations spread throughout the state which offer buyers the pleasure of choosing their own quality tree and having it custom cut. In recent years many families have made a drive to the country and a tour through the tree fields one of the season's family customs.

The directory, available only by mail, is distributed through the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Marketing Division and the Maryland Christmas Tree Growers Association.

They will be mailed December 1st. Persons wishing a copy are asked to write to "Christmas Trees", Maryland Department of Agriculture, Parole Plaza Office Building, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

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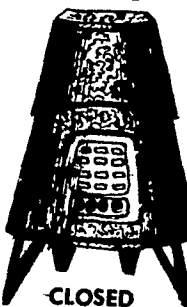
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