

Berks-Lehigh pork producers hold annual spring sale

By Jody Mitchell
Berks Co.
Correspondent

KUTZTOWN - It was easy to see that pork producing is often a family affair as men, women and children gathered at the Fairgrounds here on Saturday for the Spring Sale of meat type breeding stock consigned by Eastern Pennsylvania's top breeders and sponsored by

the Berks-Lehigh County Pork Producers Association. As Association officers, sales committee members and directors tended to the auction preliminaries, members' wives set up a display of food which guaranteed that no one attending the sale would go home hungry. Two very professional young men, Leslie Lazarus and his

nephew Todd Bennecoff, ages ten and nine years respectively, stood by ready to field the hogs as each was presented to prospective bidders. Auctioneering the sale was Ralph W. Zetlemeyer, Breinigsville R1. At the close of the bidding, total sales stood at \$10,320 for an average of \$211 per hog.

Top sellers of the day were two bred gilts purchased at \$350 each: Mini Acres Matilda, consigned by Edward H. Oswald, Slatington R2, purchased by Walter Melton of Allentown, New

Jersey; and Loch Valley Tilli, consigned by Warren C. Loch, New Tripoli R1, purchased by Mark Hoppes, Lehigh R1. A total of 49 head were purchased with bred gilts averaging \$287, open gilts \$131, and boars \$180. One littermate pair brought \$190.

Saturday's sale was the first of two such auctions which will be presented this year by the Berks-Lehigh County Pork Producers and the Eastern Pennsylvania Pork Producers, the second of which will be held in the Fall.

Earl Rabenold, Kutztown R2, serves as president of the pork producers group with Edward Oswald of Slatington R2 as vice-president. Terry Bennecoff, Kutztown R2, is the secretary-treasurer.

Lehigh expects to be in the black for 1976

ALLENTOWN — Robert P. Barry, president of Lehigh Valley Cooperative Farmers, said recently he expects the Co-op to show a profit in 1976 after several years of losses. Barry took over the presidency of LeHi in June of 1974.

"We have instituted substantial changes over the last year, improving efficiency and adding profitable new lines to our product mix," Barry said. "Operations have been centralized with internal controls developed in all divisions. Volume is increasing steadily in both fluid and non-fluid products."

"Earnings for 1975, while

still in the red, show significant improvement over last year," Barry reported. "We have every reason to believe that dramatic positive trends established by the end of 1975 will continue and put us in the black for '76."

LeHi is one of the largest dairy cooperatives in the Mid-Atlantic region, marketing dairy products in five states. The cooperative represents 600 producers and in 1975 processed over 390 million pounds of milk. Sales volume for the fiscal year ending Jan. 31, 1976 was close to \$100 million.

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