

Hog producers

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available." Henkel explained. Organized in 1967, and put into operation in January of 1968, the pork check-off program went from ground zero to the point where 65 percent of the hogs marketed are under the plan. Thirty-five states work along with the NPPC. In some states, including Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas, the check-off program is regulated and deductions are mandatory. But Henkel believes it's better to stay voluntary, although those who don't contribute are admittedly reaping the benefits while sowing none of the seeds for improvement. According to Henkel, "the strength of the program lies in the fact that it is voluntary and executed by producers themselves." Organization begins at the local level, Henkel pointed out. Aside from having close connections at the national level, he's also an active leader for the state and county groups. He was a director for the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council (PPPC) for six years and has served as chief executive to both the Lancaster County and state-wide organizations.

The biggest promotional programs currently going on in the Keystone State are primarily of an educational nature. The PPPC distributes pork recipes and educational materials to home economics classes and also supplies these participating schools with meat for demonstration purposes. Booklets and pamphlets stress the nutritional value of pork and describe cooking procedures.

The PPPC has also distributed similar kits - each valued at about \$400 - to college home ec. curriculums. The materials include film and other educational items.

Research programs are periodically funded across the country, with Penn State receiving grants from time to time. A major emphasis now is to find ways for increasing the efficiency for feeder pig production, Henkel commented.

In addition to these programs, the pork producers' wives have formed groups known as "The Porkettes" - an auxiliary for carrying out cooking and serving demonstrations for pork and related products.

As it's set up now,

producers who agree to take part in the program have the proper deductions made right at the market - which could be an auction, a packer, or butcher. It is also possible for the producer to take the program entirely into his own hands by periodically sending a check to the NPPC which would represent the proper amount of deductions.

If a producer is not willing to take part in the program, yet a deduction was made, he may apply for a refund, Henkel explained. He is on the local board and would welcome questions from other producers.

One of the research programs on hogs with which he is directly involved concerns swine diseases. Many of his pigs are marketed at five to six weeks of age for veterinary research. The final purpose is to help find cures for rhinitis and mycoplasma pneumonia, Henkel estimates that between 60 and 65 percent of the U.S. hog population is affected by one or even both of these diseases. Although neither of these production complications have an effect on consumption qualities of pork, they are of concern and exemplify one more area where the check-off program is being put to work.

Penn State breeding research specialist

John Almquist wins prize

UNIVERSITY PARK — Dr. John O. Almquist, professor of dairy physiology at The Pennsylvania State University, won national honors June 22 as recipient of the research award of the National Association of Animal Breeders. The occasion was the annual banquet of the American Dairy Science Association held in Raleigh, N.C. He received \$1,000 and a plaque. The Penn State scientist is internationally known for his work in artificial breeding and reproductive physiology of dairy and beef cattle. The award is his fourth major citation for outstanding achievements since 1959.

Almquist pioneered the use of milk in semen diluters to extend the fertile life of bull spermatozoa. Later he used glycerol with milk to develop and improved semen diluent to retain high fertility over a longer period of time than previously possible. For the latter



John Almquist

development he won the Glycerine Producers' Association Research Award in 1959.

In 1963 the American Dairy Science Association presented Dr. Almquist with the Borden Research Award in Dairy Production. The

award cited him for studies in the physiology of reproduction. He was honored for significant contributions to the rapid and successful advancement of artificial insemination and the resulting improvement of dairy cattle.

International recognition for achievements was given the Penn State dairy scientist in 1972. This time he received the research award of the Italian Society for Progress in Animal Reproduction during ceremonies at the Italian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Almquist has described his studies of sexual behavior and semen production of bulls at three international Congresses of Animal Reproduction since 1956.

His most recent national honors came in 1974 when he won the Animal Physiology and Endocrinology Award of the American Society of Animal Science.

Almquist was the first scientist to demonstrate the value of adding penicillin and streptomycin to diluted bull semen to control bacterial growth and to increase fertility. As a result, antibiotics are used universally by the artificial breeding industry. Such use of antibiotics has produced a substantial increase in breeding efficiency in the United States as well as in other countries.

He has been in charge of the Dairy Breeding Research Center at University Park since the Center was opened in 1949. He was appointed to the College of Agriculture faculty in 1944 to develop a new program of research and teaching in animal reproduction.

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Sale Register

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SAT. JULY 10 - 9:30 a.m. Public Sale of Household Items, Antiques, Carpenter Tools, located at 267 Willow Street Pike (North Bound), in the town of Willow Street, Pa., Lancaster County. Sale by Harry D. and Mary E. Herr; Carl Diller and J. Everett Kreider, Auctioneers.

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