

Scores chase greased pig

EPHRATA What could possibly possess a person to chase a greased pig around an arena on a chilly September night?

I don't know, answered Daryl Keith the first place winner in the 12-15 year old age bracket of the greased pig chase held at the Ephrata Fair on Tuesday evening.

My mom wanted me to try it," said the top place winner in the 7-11 year old age bracket, Gary Moore.

"It's fun to see how good you can do it," was another reply.

But, perhaps the best answer to the question came from a spectator.

"If you saw a \$50 bill flying down the street, wouldn't you chase after it?" he questioned, referring to the fact that the majority of the top winners to walk away with a hog would sell it for the \$50 profit.

Almost anybody would chase after the money, and many youths and adults chased after the pig also on Tuesday night.

A popular event this sixth annual pig chase drew a crowd of hundreds. Before the greased pig event began however, a rooster chase was held.

The winner from that particular chase was Larry Buehler, age 6, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Buehler, 229 Lincoln Ave., Ephrata.

Larry was quite excited about capturing his prize and taking it home, but his parents were a bit perplexed.

"We don't know what he'll do with it now that he has it," they remarked. Larry doesn't live on a farm.

That was the case for most of the winners of the greased pigs, also.

Gary Moore, 10, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Moore,

365 4th St. Denver, who caught and won a 25 pound pig, is in the same predicament as the rooster winner. He doesn't live on a farm, either. This was his first year for trying to catch the pig, and he said he really enjoyed catching it and getting greasy.

Daryl Keith, 15, who won in the age 12-15 year old bracket, is also a non-farmer. He lives in Ephrata and is the son of Doris and Donald Keith.

The top place winner for 16-year-old-and-over was Paul Lowmiller, 22, of Stevens R1.

The second and third place winners in these classes were Matt Kilick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kilick, 1361 Lincoln "Hights Ave., Ephrata, for the rooster chase; Barry Martin, son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Martin, East Earl R1, for greased pig chasing, age

bracket, 11. Dennis Thompson and Dean Heas, for age 12-15 and Randy Shrom, Richard Good, and Rick Leid, for the 16 year and over class in greased pig chasing.

The object of the pig chase was to catch the animal and carry it over to the judge's stand. The lightweight classes chased after 34-35 pound pigs, the medium-weight classes, 64-86 pounders, and the heavyweight, 115 to 125 pounders.

There were several different heats for each age bracket, and the two or three contenders who won the different heats were pitted against each other for the top placing. The person to catch the pig in the final, championship heat in each class won the pig and a trophy. The second place winner received a gift certificate.

Packer bonding proposed

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A regulation to provide for the bonding of meat packers under the Packers and Stockyards Act has been proposed, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced last week.

USDA's Packers and Stockyards Administration said that the proposal is intended to establish guidelines for bonding of packers as authorized under amendments to the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act adopted by Congress and signed by President Ford on Sept. 13.

The proposal requires packers with annual purchases in excess of \$500,000 worth of livestock to provide a surety bond equal to an average of two days' purchases of livestock, with a minimum bond of \$10,000.

For example, a packer that purchases \$100,000

worth of livestock per day, based on its purchases during the previous 12 months, would be required to post a bond of \$200,000. A bond equivalent may be filed in lieu of a commercial surety bond under certain specific conditions.

The bond of a packer purchasing livestock as a successor in business to a packer formerly subject to the P&S Act shall be no less than that required of the prior packer, unless otherwise determined by USDA.

USDA said that the need for packer bonding was brought about by changing conditions in the livestock marketing and packing industries.

When the P&S Act was passed in 1921, well over 80 per cent of all livestock was sold through large terminal

markets, and the Act provided for close supervision of transactions at these markets. During the decades following World War II, the basic pattern of livestock marketing changed drastically, with packers purchasing an increasing amount of their slaughter supply at its source. More than 80 per cent of all slaughter livestock is now purchased by packers directly from the producers or from custom feedlots.

These changes have resulted in increased exposure of livestock producers to the risk of loss. Between 1958 and August, 1976, 174 packers failed in business. The largest of these was American Beef Packers, Omaha, Neb., which filed for bankruptcy in January, 1975, owing sellers in 13 states for more than \$20 million worth of livestock

purchases at the time of bankruptcy.

This proposed amendment to the regulations will incorporate packers into those sections of the regulations requiring bonds for market agencies and dealers. No change is proposed for the bonds of market agencies and dealers.

Any person who wishes to submit written data, views, or arguments concerning the proposal may do so by filing two copies with the Hearing Clerk, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250, no later than Nov. 15. Submitted material will be available for study in Room 112-A, USDA Administration building.

Copies of the proposed amendments may be obtained from the Information Office, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.



More than 1700 dairy animals were in the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg this week.

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