

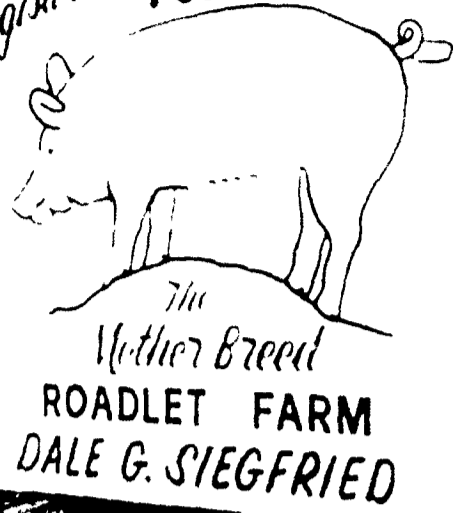


Dale has 12 acres of potatoes as part of his farming operation



Dale holds the desk plaque he received as Regional Star Farmer at

Registered YORKSHIRES



competition in Springfield, Mass., recently.

## Siegfried talks about star farmer competition

By JUDY MITCHELL  
Berks Co. Reporter  
MERTZTOWN - Dale Siegfried appears to be a man of few words, but his words were obviously well chosen when he came up against the intensive questioning of a panel of agriculture experts in Springfield, Mass., recently, to capture the title of 1976 Eastern Regional FFA State Star Farmer.

Home on the farm in Mertztown R2, the quiet, softspoken young man did not remember the 15-minute, rapidfire questioning of the

seven judges as particularly unsettling. Commenting on his experience in Springfield, he simply recalls that "it was fun"

Dale does not display the kind of outward aggressiveness one might expect of a competitor, but rather a kind of quiet assurance. With that assurance goes a firm sense of responsibility and future direction.

Described as "industrious" by his former agriculture instructor, Ben Newcomer, Dale has come a

long way in farming since he enrolled in Vo-Ag the beginning of his ninth grade year at Kutztown Area High School. Having started with one dairy calf, three acres of corn, and a quarter-acre garden, Dale now runs a major farm operation which includes 16 head of breeding swine, 152 head of fat hogs, 13 head of fat cattle, and 59 turkeys. He has 12 acres in potatoes, 87 acres of corn grain, 51 acres of wheat, 16 acres of oats, and 15 acres of soybeans and wheat which was double cropped.

Asked what he thinks the officials look for first in a regional star farmer, Dale's immediate response is "record keeping." Although it's apparent by his tone that that particular aspect of farming is not exactly his favorite, Dale has earned a number of FFA honors for project bookkeeping, including a gold medal in the FFA State Record Book contest; and his diligence in the area of record keeping most certainly aided him in the submission of a 20 to 30 page application which

preceded his appearance in Springfield

Dale recalls that much of the questioning in Springfield centered on how he got started in farming and on his future goals.

According to Dale, his swine operation, Roadlet Farms Registered Yorkshires, began with a Sears Roebuck sponsored chain pig awarded him in 1972. In four years, he has turned that single animal into an efficient swine business that is currently the most important aspect of his total farm operation.

As for his future goals, Dale seems to know exactly where he is going. He already has primary responsibility for the operation and management of the Siegfried family farm and at the end of this year, when his parents move off the farm, he will take it over completely and eventually buy it from his parents, if his plans are completed.

Dale's active interest in FFA and community affairs together with the honors he has accumulated also

influenced his recent victory, and he attributes his success and accomplishments to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Siegfried, who have guided and directed him in

managing the farm, and to his advisors at Kutztown, Mr. Donald W Reinert and Mr. Ben Newcomer, who greatly contributed to his knowledge and understanding of agriculture.

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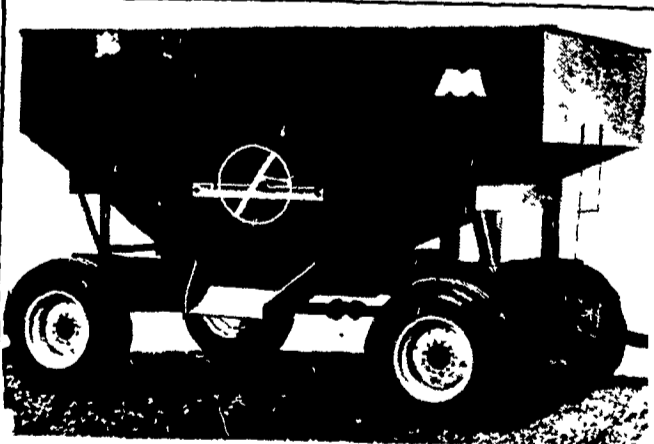
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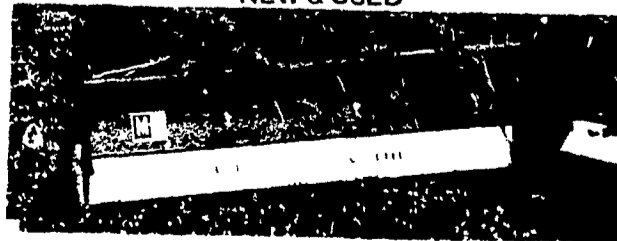
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