

Lebanon County family typifies FFA honorary parent award winners

By JOANNE SPAHR
ANNVILLE, Pa. - Victor Bomgardner and his wife from Anville R3, are one of nine sets of parents in the Eastern Region of Pennsylvania to receive the Future Farmers of America Honorary Parent award. He and his family are typical of all eight others in philosophy and operation, to a certain degree.

Bomgardner and his three Keystone Degree winning sons, Charles, Carl, and Jay, work together on their 297 acres of farmland and rent 118 more acres. Their operation consists of 110 dairy cattle and about 45 - 46 head of Hampshire sows and gilts. For crops they grow corn and alfalfa. And, starting the first of this year

they went into business together although they'd been working together prior to this.

Bomgardner attributes the family farm with giving all three of his sons the encouragement to become Keystone Farmers.

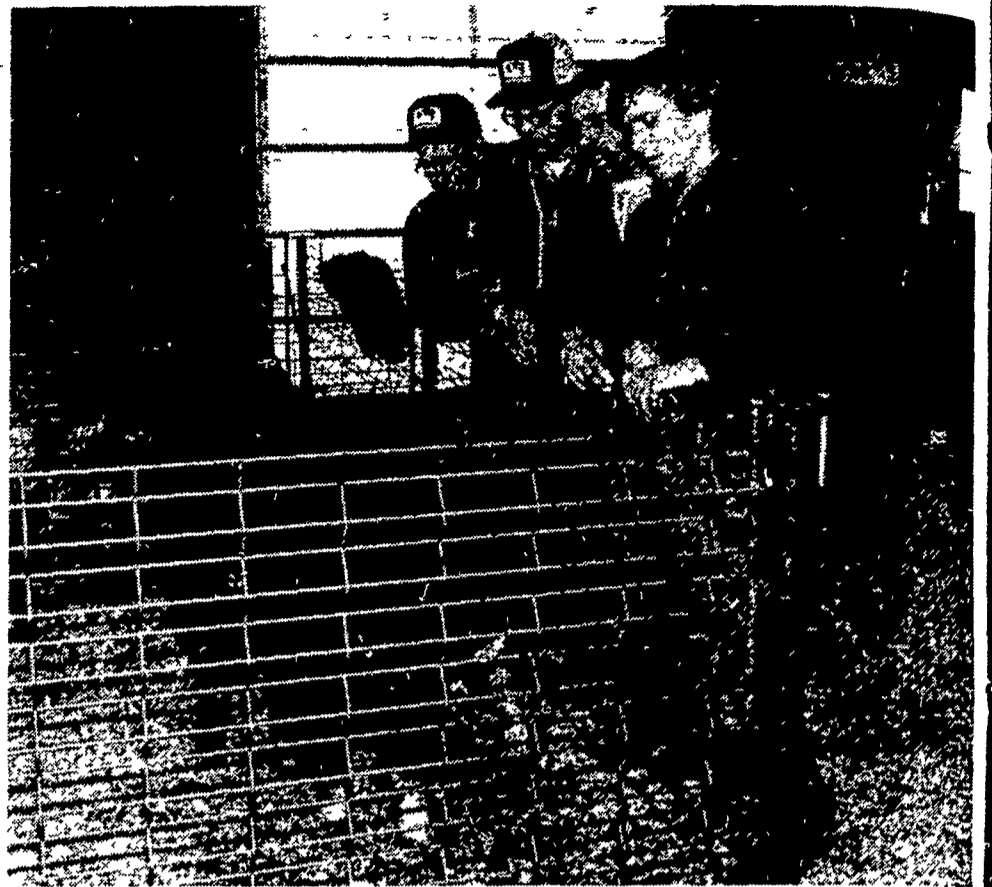
"My wife and I and the boys all worked together," he says. "We started them off in 4-H, which helped them want to be farmers, so FFA just came along naturally." And, of course, Mr. and Mrs. Bomgardner have given them encouragement and a place to start business, which really added to the boys' interest.

Many of the other honorary parents spoken to by Lancaster Farming expressed the same sentiments.

They said that unless the parents take interest in the children and show the positive aspects of farming, the younger members of the family just won't want to enter into the business.

One other parent mentioned that the FFA helps the members to learn to speak in front of others and teaches them leadership ability. This is certainly the case for Jay Bomgardner, the family's 1977 Keystone Farmer, since he is president of his county organization.

For more information on the Keystone Farmers and the honorary parents, refer to separate articles on each in this week's issue of Lancaster Farming.



Victor Bomgardner and his sons Charles, Carl, and Jay look over their Hampshires at this year's Lebanon

County Fall 4-H Livestock Roundup held earlier this year.

Hog inventory largest since '55

HARRISBURG, Pa. - Pennsylvania's hog farms had a December 1, 1976 inventory of 700,000 hogs and pigs according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. The December 1 inventory is the largest for the date since 1955.

The 700,000 hogs and pigs were 40,000 head more than a year earlier, an increase of

six per cent. Breeding stock on hand was 77,000 head, a decrease of seven per cent from 1975, while market hog numbers were up eight per cent to 623,000.

Inventory value was \$31,500,000, a drop of 32 per cent from the \$46,530,000 a year ago. The huge decline in value was the result of a

\$25.50 per head decrease to \$45.00.

The Spring pig crop for 1976 was 540,000, up eleven per cent from the Spring 1975 crop. The 72,000 sows farrowed produced an average of 7.5 pigs per litter.

The Fall pig crop at 450,000 was 16 per cent above the fall 1975 crop. Total pig crop for the year (December 1975 to

November 1976) was 990,000, a 14 per cent increase from the previous year. Intended farrowings for December 1976-May 1977 are 68,000, down six per cent from Spring 1976 farrowings.

The U.S. hog inventory is estimated at 55.1 million head as of December 1, eleven per cent more than a year earlier. The 8.0 million

breeder stock are five per cent more than a year ago and eight per cent above 1974 stocks. The number for market, at 47.1 million head is up 12 per cent from last year, but is one per cent below the number two years ago.

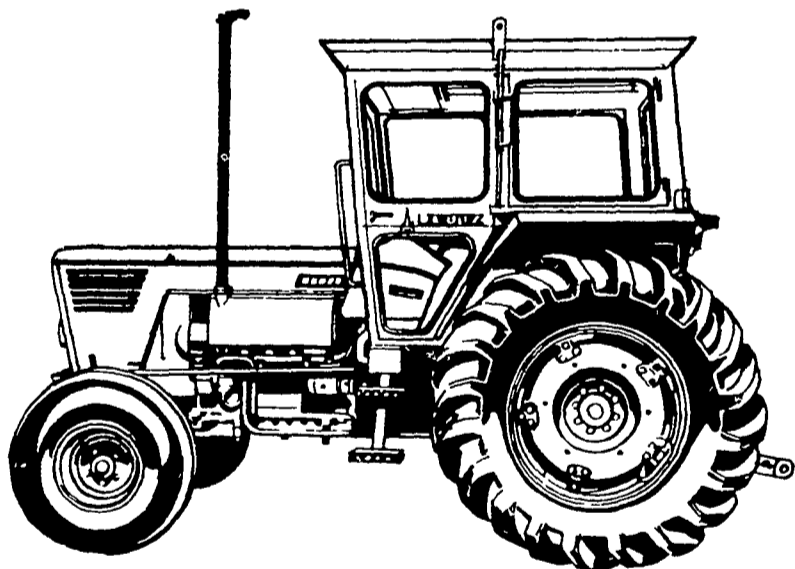
The U.S. pig crop for 1976 was 84.6 million head, 19 per cent above last year. The Spring 1976 pig crop, now estimated at a revised level of 42.2 million was up 19 per cent from 1975 levels, but six per cent below 1974. The Fall 1976 pig crop estimated at

42.4 million was up 18 per cent from last year and nine per cent higher than the 1974 Fall crop.

The 5.9 million sows that farrowed during June-November 1976 was 18 per cent more than a year ago. Average litter size was 7.22 compared to 7.21 a year earlier.

Hog producers in the U.S. intend to farrow 6.1 million sows during the Spring of 1977, an increase of five per cent from the same period this year and 23 per cent more than the Spring of 1975

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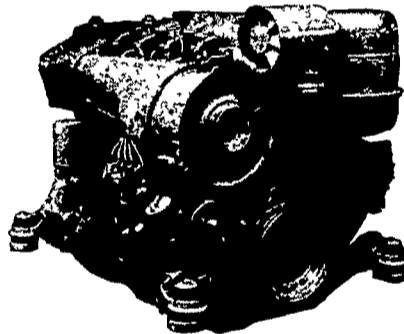
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