

# Strauss takes hog show

Continued from Page 1

Farm, Manheim R5, and while it was an "eyecatcher" when young, Strauss and his two brothers Richard, 18, and Steven, 17, who are in a three-way partnership, didn't expect the animal to "go anywhere." Nevertheless, they took the animal off the self-feeder and hand fed him two times a day on regular hog grower pellets in small amounts. This, according to the brothers, "trimmed him down and made his frame grow long." They also exercised the animal every day for a month for a half hour at a time. This extra care turned out an animal that was really firm in muscling with a lot of length.

Since the eldest Strauss picked the animal at the feeder pig sale, he showed the animal on Tuesday, which became a fitting ending for Strauss' last year in FFA. A Cloister FFA member, he graduated from Ephrata High School in 1974 and will be unable to show animals through FFA from this year on.

"He said he was going to put

his whole heart into it this year," said Robert Strauss, Sr., the father of the three boys.

The partnership also had the reserve heavyweight champion, as well as several class champions and reserve champions. For 13 animals entered, they earned 17 ribbons in a rainbow of colors.

This is not the first time the brothers took top swine honors. In 1976 they took grand champion at the State Farm Show and in last year's Lancaster County fair competition, they took the champion and reserve champion titles at the Manheim Fair and the reserve grand champion title at the Ephrata Fair. This year they will be taking their animals to county shows, as well.

Herr's animal was bred by Wheary Brothers, Dornsife, and was one of five animals entered by the 15-year-old on Tuesday. All five took either firsts or seconds in their respective classes.

Herr, who up to this time, has been most noted for his 4-H and FFA sheep projects,

explained that he just "wanted to try hogs out for experience," and that the most he'd hoped for was to "break even."

In sheep showmanship, Herr had the honor of being the first FFA member to have a champion pen of lambs at the Keystone Livestock Exposition, Harrisburg. He also had the grand champion pen of lambs at the Ephrata and Manheim fair last year.

He was president of the Grassland FFA ninth-grade chapter and was the recipient of the Star Greenhand degree. He was the chapter's top livestock judge and placed second in county competition. He went on to earn a bronze medal during FFA week at Penn State University in June.

Henry Gruber, judge for the event, and head of livestock procurement for Arbogast and Bastian, Inc., Allentown, Pa., remarked on the quality of animals shown at the Lancaster Show.

"I've judged this Lancaster FFA show for several years, and you won't find better quality anywhere in the United States," he said. Gruber estimates he judges 20 to 25 show, nationally, per year.

"This year the quantity was down, but the quality ran just as deep as other years," he pointed out. One hundred and 89 animals entered by 45 students from seven schools were in Tuesday's show and sale.

In fitting and showmanship competition, Jerry Myer of Lampeter Strasburg took top honors in the junior



Christian Herr, Narvon R2, took the reserve grand champion honors at the FFA Market Hog show and sale

last Tuesday with a Yorkshire-Hampshire cross. This is the 15-year-old's first year for a hog project.

showmanship contest. This was Myer's first year for a swine project. In senior fitting, Toni Eberly, of the Cloister FFA, took the top honors.

Junior showmanship was won by Gerald Hess, Penn Manor, and senior showmanship by John Zimmerman, Ephrata.

Judge Henry Gruber noted that in the senior showmanship contest, the participants were, for the most part, on the same level of excellence.

"I'd say that there was

very little difference from the 15th to the first placed individual," Gruber remarked, noting that the top showman probably had a little more experience and knew some finer points. He attributed the high degree of expertise in the showing ring to participation in fairs, and encouragement by leaders, agriculture teachers, and parents.

In the sale on Tuesday afternoon which followed the morning show, 170 market hogs averaged \$48.29 per hundredweight and 227

pounds. Excluding the two champions, the average price was \$46.39 per hundredweight, according to Arba Henry, show and sale coordinator.

The total amount grossed for the afternoon sale was \$18,643.72 with the champions and \$17,866.64 without them.

On Wednesday, the show concluded with a hog carcass show at Stonebridge Farms Butcher Shops, Mount Joy. Seven animals were entered

[Continued on Page 24]



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