Hogs & cows give this 4-H'er show experience

By LAUREL SCHAEFFER Staff Correspondent

HAMBURG - Nineteenseventy-nine is beginning as an exciting year for many Berks County 4-H'ers. This year several 4-H'ers from this area went to Harrisburg to show their livestock, for the first time, at the Farm Show. One such lucky exhibitor was Charles Seidel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Seidel, Hamburg.

Charles has been to the Farm Show many times before, but never as an exhibitor. This year he showed two hogs selected as one of three pens permitted to enter from Berks County.

At 12 years of age this cager young 4-H'er has already made quite a "mark" for himself, but suprisingly not with hogs, but with dairy cattle.

Charles has proved his

skill as a judge of dairy would otherwise go to waste. shown, tor his own comwon first place in the shown dairy cows several years earlier but temporarily gave them up for market hogs.

Presently Charles and his younger brother, Henry, age 10, enjoy raising market hogs and showing them at area fairs. This past year the brothers have shown their hogs at local fairs and the County swine club round-up. Charles plan to show dairy cattle again, maybe starting next year, but still enjoys exhibiting hogs.

The hogs are just sideline of the Seidel's farming operation. They are raised in small numbers for the primary reason of consuming by-products of the family dairy herd which

cattle this Summer as he It was from this that got Charles interested in Southeast 4-H Dairy Cattle showing hogs and because he Judging Contest. He has and his parents felt he was too small to handle the larger animals properly at first.

> This year the young man will be taking two market hogs to the Farm Show, a Hampshire gilt and Yorkshire barrow which were previously purchased as feeders.

Charles is anxiously looking forward to his trip to Harrisburg. He is primarily interested in seeing the other livestock which will be parisons. By seeing the other animals he hopes to become a better judge.

This 4-H'er shares many of the duties of the family dairy. Presently they include feeding the hogs and young calves, giving the cows hay, and helping to keep the record books on the dairy herd. The Seidels are DHIA owner-samplers and are milking 37 cows, and farm 126 acres.

If asked, Charles is quick to answer almost any question about the herd including the rolling herd average which consists almost entirely of Registered Holsteins. The average he said is about 14,000 pounds milk and 500 pounds fat.

Charles has a cow of his own which he hopes will soon begin to increase in female numbers. So far his luck hasn't held to his wishes since she has been producing bull calves since her first breeding. His cow, a four year old named Rob-Nan-Lisa Elevation Lillian, 1s classified at 83 points and projected at 15,000 pounds of milk and 500 pounds of fat.

This dairyman takes pride in keeping the records on the herd which may be why he enjoys his seventh grade math class more than any other subject. Charles attends the Hamburg Area School District, and is also involved in the Virginville Community 4-H Club and the Berks County 4-H Swine Club. His interests also include collecting beer cans. And he has another brother besides Henry, named Leslie, age 3.

Other members of the County swine club who took hogs to the Farm Show are Allen Rohrbach, Shoemakersville and Gregg Stricker, Bernville.



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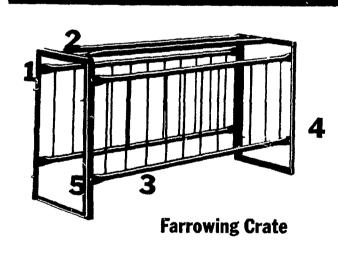
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