

Horse power pulls thrill Farm Show crowd

HARRISBURG — Crowds of people jammed the large arena on Wednesday evening to watch the annual horse pulling contests. This event has become one of the Pennsylvania Farm Show's crowd favorites.

Spectators came to see light weight and heavy weight draft horses pulling a sled full of weights. The object was, of course, to pull the load the farthest distance.

The career of the pulling horse starts when he is around two years old. The Belgian breed is the most commonly used horse for this type of competition, although Percherons are seen in pulling contests too.

According to Fred Welsh, a pulling horse expert from Boston, the Belgian horses are favored because they are a good working horse. He added they are docile and

easy to keep clean which helps their popularity.

One of the contestants at this year's Farm Show, Drew Walsh from Mount Pleasant, near Greensburg, said his team of drafts works all year long. During the fair season, they travel to Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia, or where ever there is a contest going on.

Walsh continued saying draft horse teams are in better shape than most race horses. He said they're fed better and cared for better than their fleeter-footed brothers.

There were 15 lightweight and 15 heavyweight teams in this year's Farm Show competition. The Pennsylvania contest differs from the most popular pull held in Fryeberg, Maine because it is a pull for distance with increasing load weights. In Maine, the teams pull for

five minutes, carrying their load how ever far they can. The size of the load depends on the size of the horse.

Fred Welsh explained a team that weighs 3200 pounds would probably have a load of 6500 pounds, around two "rocks" per pound of horse. A rock is the old term for the weights used to load the sled. Today, cement blocks are used instead of field rocks.

Dave Caulson, North East, Maryland, said the use of a dynamometer is gaining more popularity in horse pulling contests. Invented by a Professor Collins of Iowa State University in 1923, the dynamometer is attached to the back of a truck and is a vertical pull.

Caulson explained the advantage to the vertical pull. The sleds tend to get hung up on any little piece of stone or clump of sod which



Steadying two powerful draft horses before their big pulling event is no easy task for this young teamster.

can limit a teams' pulling ability. With a dynamometer, there is no friction resistance.

He said the best dynamometer pulls are held in Michigan and Wisconsin. At last year's pull in Hillsdale, Michigan, a team

of Belgians set the world record. Caulson attributed some of the record to the quackgrass sod which he claims gives the best footing.

This year's Farm Show winners were:

Lightweight
1 Tom Brown R1 Stahlstown 2 Edwin

Hays Bentleyville 3 Vance Litman
Claysville 4 Delbert Iseman R3
Shelcta 4 Al Dodge Jr R1 Little
Meadows

Heavyweight
1 James Howard R2 Ebensburg, 2
Robert W Decker Garrett 3 Harold
Blake R1 Volant 4 Donald Iseman R3
Shelcta 5 Charley Fisher R1 Con
neautville

Six Hitched Horses
1 Robert W Decker, Garrett 2 Elmer
D Lapp R1 Kinzers

Eastern Pennsylvania spudmen win most titles

HARRISBURG — Potato growers from Eastern took almost every ribbon in the 1980 Farm Show potato award listing.

Schuylkill County dominated the winners, especially in the youth division of the show. The Schwartz family, R2 Hegins, contributed heavily to the County's standings.

OPEN DIVISION

Katahdin
1 Padula Farms Bath 2 Ernest V Geiger Schnecksville 3 Don E Lichtenwainer R2 Macungie 4 Nevin W Reitz, R2 Schnecksville 5 Blair Hower R2 Northampton

Kennebec, Penn-71, Norchip
1 Hans Fritz Lock Haven, 2 Nevin W Reitz, R2 Schnecksville
Superior or other whites
1 Jennifer Schwartz R2 Hegins, 2

Padula Farms, Bath 3 Chester Schwartz R2 Hegins 4 Jeff Schwartz R2 Hegins 5 Isabel Schwartz R2 Hegins

Norland or other reds
1 Chester Schwartz R2 Hegins 2 Jeff Schwartz R2 Hegins 3 Jennifer Schwartz R2 Hegins 4 Isabel Schwartz R2 Hegins 5 Calvin Geiger Schnecksville

JUNIOR DIVISION
4-H Club
1 Chester Schwartz R2 Hegins
Superior or other whites

VOCATIONAL CLASSES
Katahdin
2 Chris Walizer R1 Loganton 3 Donald Heilman, R1 Kempton

Kennebec Penn 71 or Norchip
1 Charles Martin R1 Willow Street 2 John Keller, R2 York 3 Brent Boone, Logantown, 4 Don Bennett Millersville, 5 David Rayback, R2 Reynoldsville

Superior or other whites
1 Jeff Schwartz, R2 Hegins, 2 Mike Masser, Pitman

Norland or other named
1 Jeffrey Schwartz R2 Hegins, 2 Mike Masser Pitman, 3 Jeff Burkholder R2

Columbia 4 David Rayback R2 Reynoldsville

Champion Vo-Ag Division

1 Jeffrey Schwartz R2 Hegins

Grand Champion

Jeffrey Schwartz R2 Hegins

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1 Nevin W Reitz R2 Schnecksville

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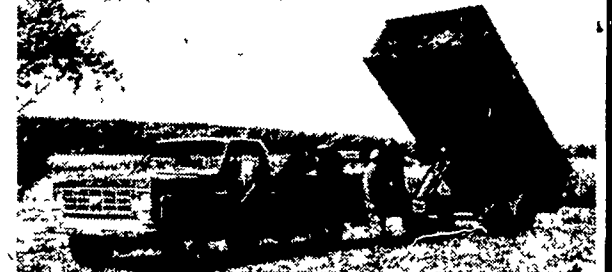
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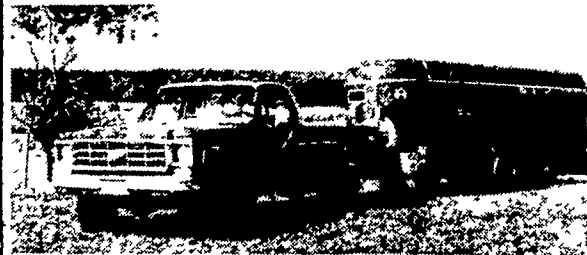
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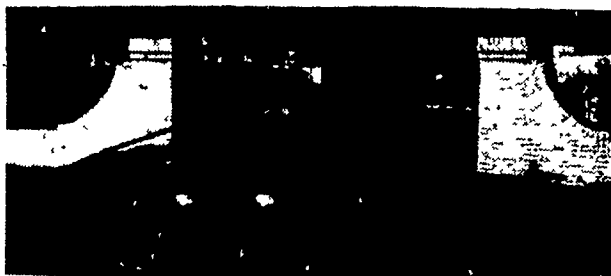
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