

Ledyard drafts muscle

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and commented the team he drove at this year's Expo was the toughest team he's had to work and train.

Although the Benham's did not take the heavy weight championship trophy with them, they did succeed

in capturing the lightweight championship, out-pulling 32 other teams.

Their champion team, Don, 5 years old, and Duke, 7 years old, had only pulled together once before. In lightweight competition in Toronto, Canada, the 3210

pound team succeeded in bringing home first place honors.

John Benham explained his horse Duke was the son of the world champion puller, also called Duke. He pointed out the second place lightweight team had a half brother to his horse, both sired by Duke.

Benham noted the high Pennsylvania team in the lightweight contest also had a horse with Duke bloodlines. A daughter of Duke, at two years of age, was making headlines in the horse pulling world.

As if the statistics weren't impressive enough, Benham added a Duke horse helped to set the 1979 world record in dynamometer pulling. Pat, a brother of Duke, and his teammate, Popeye, pulled 4050 pounds on the dynamometer, equivalent to 14,000 pounds in the stone sled pulls.

The Benhams, a family of eight brothers and eight sisters, have always used Belgians. "They're a stouter bloodline," John said. "They're stronger."

He explained it takes about sixty days to train a "green" horse to pull. "We

train them with another horse that's broken because a horse will learn more by watching what the other one does and then doing the same," Benham added. Once trained, he exercises the horses four hours every day on a drag to build and tone their muscles.

The Benham Brothers team was one of three that pulled against a load of 8300 pounds, dragging the sled 20 feet.

The second place team, owned by Jim Hunsaw, of Winchester, Indiana, was taped in at 15 feet, 11 inches on the same load. And, the third best pull in the contest was 11 feet, 4 inches on the 8300 pound load by a team owned by Beeman and Lawson, Osseo, Michigan.

Fourth and fifth places were decided at a load of 7800 pounds. Greg Schlr, Baltic, Ohio, pulled 25 feet, 4 inches with his team; and Young Brothers, Uhrichville, Ohio, came in at 19 feet, 4 inches.

The top Pennsylvania team and the horsemanship award were awarded to Tom Brown, Stahlstown. He placed twelfth in the over-all contest with a pull of 2 feet, 7 inches at 7800 pounds.

This was Brown's second win this year under the

Farm Show arena's roof. His pair of Belgians was the top team at this year's Farm Show.

Brown's team is unusual in that the horses are young, Bud is 4 years old and Kit is 2 years old. Another thing that makes it unusual is the fact that Kit is a mare, daughter of Duke. "It's unusual to pull as a two-year-old and do well," Brown said, "and this is only her second contest."

When asked what he did to be selected as the best horseman, Brown stated that good horsemanship is habit-forming when it's practiced every day.

"It means no rough abuse — just normal work. And when I reset the horses, I get down and fool with them. That's the way I like to work."

Brown, who started driving when he was twelve years old, has been driving for 25 years. He has competed in Maine, Maryland, West Virginia, and Ohio as a puller.

Brown said he prefers the 27½ feet pull with increasing

weights between pulls over the type of pulling done in Maine. There, he explained, a team is given five minutes, with as many stops and starts as they like, to pull double their weight as far as they can.

"That's like a man training for a race — it takes a lot of wind. The horses have to be in great condition and have good wind. They need to be slim, with more muscle and no fat, to work like that."

Brown said he felt the draft horse industry was becoming greater and greater, with more people becoming involved in pulls. He voiced his encouragement that with the increased demand over the past five years, the quality of the draft animal has gotten better through the efforts of improved breeding.

And with competition as keen as it was on Friday during the Farm Equipment Expo, the crowd cheered its agreement that horse pulling was on the move in Pennsylvania.

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Broiler council sees more birds in processed products

COLUMBIA, S.C. — If present trends continue, consumers will be seeing less chicken in whole bird form and more in the form of convenience and further processed broiler products.

Of the 48.8 pounds of chicken American consumers ate in 1979, about five pounds, or more than 10 percent, was in further processed form. These products range from breaded pre-cooked frozen cup-up fried chicken to chicken pot pies to chicken hot dogs to breast fillet sandwiches.

The National Broiler Council predicts that by the end of the 1980's further processed products will constitute about a fifth of broiler consumption. Already chicken franks have captured about eight percent of the total hot dog market in the few years they have been marketed.

Like the whole broiler and cut-ups parts, convenience or further processed chicken

products are significantly less costly than comparable red meat items. With inflation continuing to shrink the consumer's food dollar, economy alone could contribute to increased sales.

However, the industry is quick to note that chicken products are also nutritionally comparable to red meat items, providing the same high quality animal protein but with less fat content and fewer calories. They hope to educate first-time customers to the fact that lower price doesn't mean lower quality or flavor.

Both adult members are working in an increasing number of households. They are inclined to seek foods with built-in time convenience but are unwilling to sacrifice value and good nutrition. Further processed chicken products provide all three — the council says time-saving convenience, quality nutrients and economy.

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