

## Swine conference boasts crossbreds, discusses diseases, answers producer questions

LANCASTER — Close to 150 area hog producers escaped the sweltering heat on Tuesday and enjoyed a day here in the cool Farm and Home Center listening to management advice on hog economics, nutrition, diseases, breeding, and preventative health.

The meeting was one of two conferences sponsored by the Ralston Purina Company and local dealers. The other meeting was held on Wednesday at the Host Inn, Harrisburg.

According to Purina's Gary Anderson, these were the first meetings attempted by the company at addressing the hog industry

He noted they had previously sponsored similar meetings, but for the dairy industry.

Anderson informed the group of producers that the consumption of pork has increased 14 percent and is now estimated at 65 pounds per person — up from 57 pounds. He noted the consumers consumption of beef has dropped to 70 pounds per year which will help the continued demand for pork products.

Pointing out that it takes an average of \$38 to produce one pound of pork, Anderson advised the producers to work with a sharp pencil and know exactly what the cost

of every part of their operation is.

"There is no room for mediocrity in hog producing," he said, noting that times when markets are low tends to weed out the poor managers in the hog industry.

To help the producers stay in business, Purina's Larry DeGoey advised those in attendance on nutrition and how it applies to finishing hogs.

Covering many of the intricacies of his field, the nutritionist pointed out that producers who feed a high energy ration need to watch

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Speaking to area pork producers at Tuesday's Swine Conference were, from left, Bruce McClain, DVM; Larry DeGoey, Manager of Applied Nutrition; and O.W. Robison, Professor of Animal Science and Genetics at North Carolina State University.

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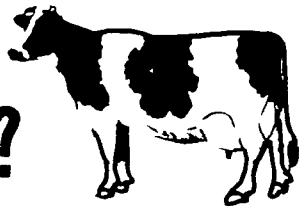
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