

# York County hog breeder prepares for another Farm Show

BY JOYCE BUPP  
Staff Correspondent

AIRVILLE — Hogs kind of go through fads," says Jim Parlett, a slow grin creasing his face. "Sort of like politics."

Parlett, a top purebred hog breeder, should know. From the family's Twin-Maples farm at Airville R2 have come some of the nation's champion Chester Whites over the past several years.

In December, fellow

purebred enthusiasts recognized Jim's knowledge and devotion to the pork industry by electing him a national director of the Chester White Association.

By one of those strange quirks of fate, Parlett didn't even make it to the session in Springfield, Missouri, where he was initially to serve on the nominating committee. Hurrying to catch a flight to the Midwest, Parlett got as far as Marietta and developed car trouble.

During the caucusing, the Chester White breeders phoned Parlett for consent to run him for the three-year term on the nine-member board.

Most of the breed business is conducted at the three Chester White Spotlight events, type-conferences, with shows and sales that are held at various locations throughout the country.

A participant for over a decade in these breed showcases, one of Parlett's

more memorable years was in 1976, when he took the champion boar honors and reserve champion gilt placings at the Sioux Falls, South Dakota, nation show.

Some of the show winnings happened closer to home. At the 1979 Keystone International Livestock Exhibition in Harrisburg, he garnered the award for grand champion carcass, a repeat of the carcass honor won back in 1968. Although the Parlett's can't be sure,

they're possibly the only exhibitors to take that top honor twice.

On the heels of the Farm Show competition, where Parlett will show and sell eight market Chesters and three Spots, comes the upcoming national Spotlight at North Carolina. Other breed show-sales for the year will include those in Lubbock, Texas, and Frankford, Indiana.

None of the Chester White breed showcases has ever been scheduled in the Northeast, Parlett hopes he can be instrumental in changing that in his term of board membership and would like to see Pennsylvania host the first such event in the region.

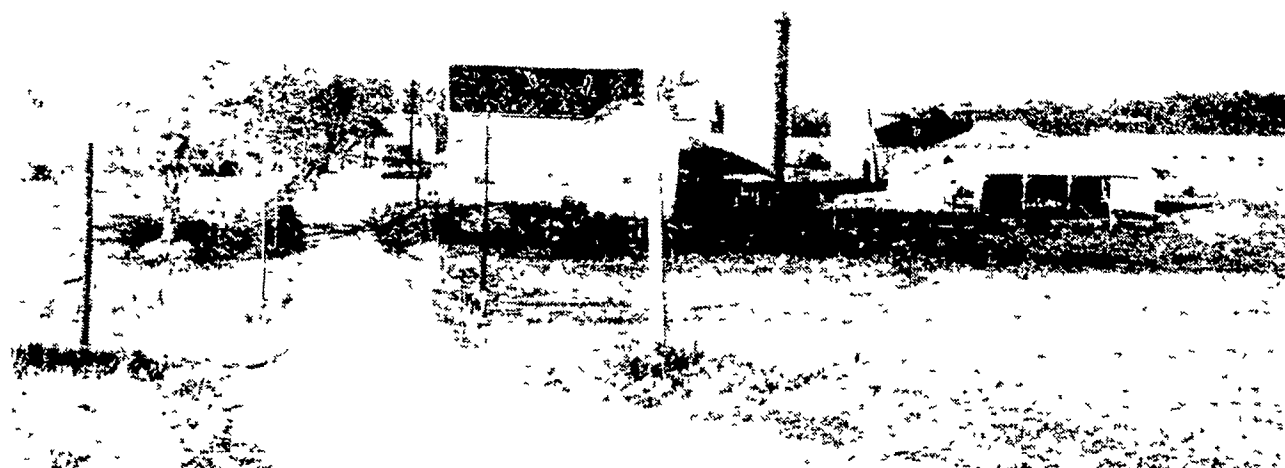
Headquartered in Rochester, Illinois, the Chester White Association maintains a staff of nine

office and field personnel, with a variety of programs aimed at further improving the big white hogs and promoting pork products.

The board is responsible for keeping the association operating in the black. Parlett explains. "Funds are raised through registration fees, advertising in the breed publication and 15 percent sales fees charged at the type conference sales. Everything exhibited at the shows is then offered through these sales as breeding stock."

Chester White breeders, along with other purebred hog organizations, are affiliated with the National Association of Swine Records, or NASR. Financial support for NASR comes from a fee on each

(Turn to Page B4)



Sitting atop a knoll in the rolling hills south of Airville, the James Parlett family's Twin Maples

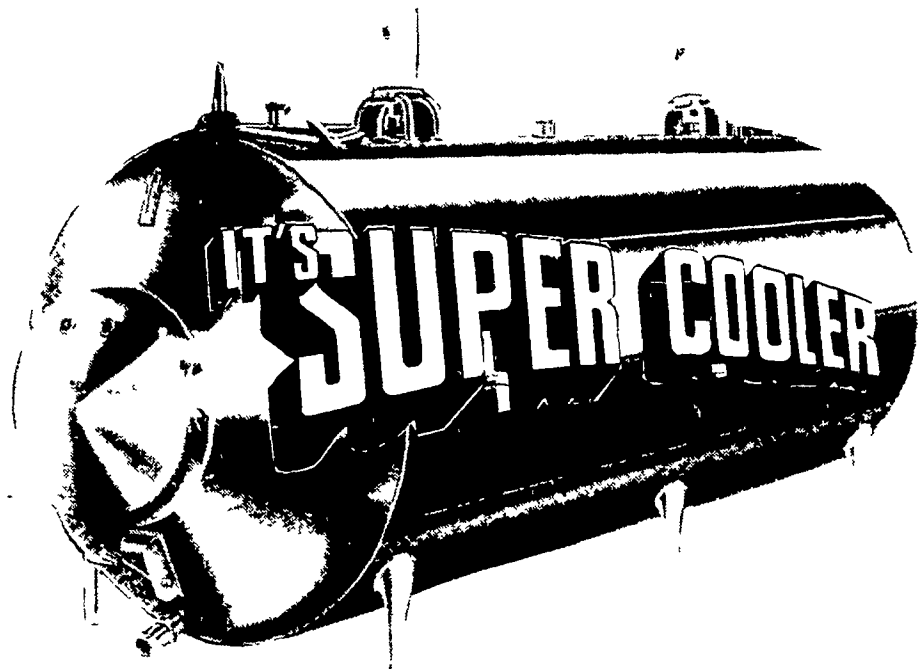
farm includes 300 hogs, 30 steers, and more than a dozen sheep in their variety of livestock.

## AG-BAGGER

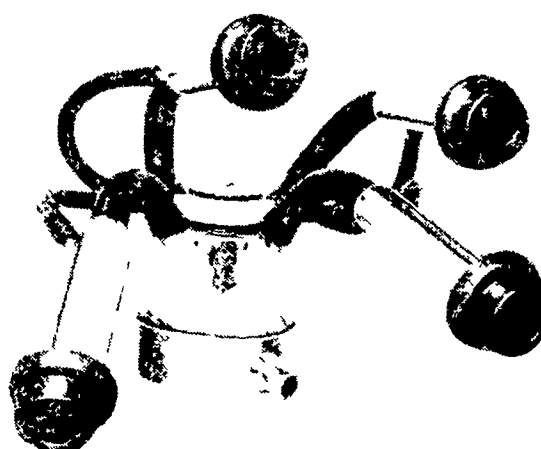
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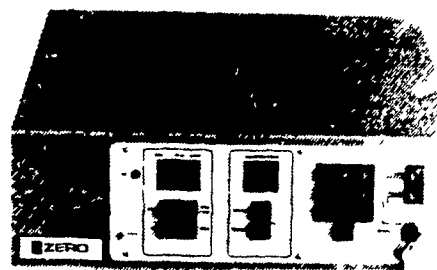


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