B4—Lancaster Farming, Saturday, January 10, 1981

Hog breeder

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litter enrolled in the testing program Main thrust of the organization is to promote purebreds over the hybrid lines of commercial pigs being developed by corporate interests investing in large fattening operations

Purebred bloodlines are needed in those hybrids to maintain their size and strength,' explains Parlett Pigs will revert to dwarfism', become small and stunted eventually, if

they re continuously

linebred Chester Whites are one of the sounder breeds of hogs. says this breeder, who grew up raising these favorites, but has tried his hand in a few other varieties They're cleaner than some breeds, have good mothering tendencies, and have a calmer temperament, although they ll readily fight when they feel it necessary

A little more growth ability is one thing we need to be breeding into them, ' he

adds, but we need to keep em lean Chester Whites were once considered a tat type pig and occasionally we ll come up with one short, fat one in a litter That does seem to run in certain bloodlines and we weed them out pretty quick

Because consistent linebreeding does intensity genetic weaknesses, Parlett periodically introduces new bloodlines to his Fwin Maples stock He also maintains a few purebred sows of the Spotted breed in the operation

Still farming the home farm where he grew up, Jim and his wife Melody ran a



Heart of the Twin Maples hog production operation is the farrowing house Jim, Gus and Melody make frequent checks on the new litters and expectant mothers.



The Parlett family - Jim, Melody and Gus - gather armfuls of potential hog show winners

dairy operation there will 1969 Jim's father had taimed one of the largest dairy set-ups in the area at one time, including two farms with Guernsey cattle and about 500 acres of eropground

But along with the dairy cows, the family always kept a few pens of purebred Chester Whites In 1949, when he was just ten years old and in his second year of 4-H project work, Parlett exhibited the champion market pig A year later he repeated the feat, and he s been bringing home hog trophies ever since

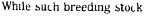
Jim and Melody's son, Gus, is following in his dad s footsteps as the second constitutes a valuable generation of the family earning 4-H honors with Chester Whites Just in his second year of 4-H exhibiting, Gus has already claimed several top prizes at area hog shows and roundups

About 300 head of hogs are kept at Twin-Maples at all times and roughly half of the annual production is sold as breeding stock Through sales at the national breed events, Parlett's Chester White stock has gone into hog herds in numerous states, including lowa, Wisconsin and North Dakota

commodity at Twin Maples, fattened hogs constitute an income mainstay toi everyday operations And, like all hogs producers in recent years, watching the market price jump like a bouncing ball is just another part of the pork business for Parlett

The ups and downs in hog plices are the pork industry's biggest single headache,' he figures

And second on the list of problems is the dieaded scours diseases, tast-acting bacteria that can be the scourge of hog operations



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