

## 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 fat 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 intensify genetic weaknesses, Parlett periodically introduces new bloodlines to his Twin 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 run a



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



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.

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

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 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 Iowa, Wisconsin and North Dakota.

While such breeding stock

constitutes a valuable commodity at Twin Maples, fattened hogs constitute an income mainstay for 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 prices are the pork industry's biggest single headache,' he figures.

And second on the list of problems is the dreaded scours disease, fast-acting bacteria that can be the scourge of hog operations.

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