

Bred gilt champs tagged at Farm Show

BY SHEILA MILLER

FARM SHOW — The 65th Annual Pennsylvania Farm Show Breeding Swine Show was held, for the first time ever, on Saturday preceding the Grand Opening ceremonies, held Sunday.

Plagued with controversy of pseudorabies outbreaks, the decision to hold the swine competition was not made until late in September. As a result, the numbers of swine entries did not set any new Farm Show records, and were actually down from 1980.

In the Duroc Bred Gilt Show, Glenn O. Ebersole, R1 Duncannon, exhibited the champion gilt. This was Ebersole's first year in competition at Farm Show. The champion was sired by Empire, a boar owned by Sweigard's Durocs, R3 Halifax.

Sweigard showed the reserve champion Duroc gilt. The yearling was sired by an Illinois boar, owned by Huffington Durocs.

Clayton Winebark of R1 Rochester Mills, Indiana County has been showing purebred Berkshire hogs at Farm Show since 1949. In those years, he said he believes he's taken 12 or 15 of the championship trophies.

This year was no exception. Winebark's 38 years experience in raising purebred Berkshires helped him in breeding the champion bred gilt, selected by Judge Gale Bressner of Chenoa, Illinois.

The January gilt was sired by Monster, a boar Winebark purchased at the National Summer Type Conference held in Goshen, Indiana. This boar not only sired the champion, but the reserve champion Berkshire gilt as well. She was Winebark's February entry.

The champion Poland China bred gilt of the 1981 Pennsylvania Farm Show was exhibited by Barbara J. McConnell, 17, of Volant, Lawrence County. Her champion, called Power Sue, was sired by a Poland boar called Super Iron.

Sue is one of five purebred Poland China swine kept by Barbara as 4-H projects. Living in town with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Keith McConnell, Barbara keeps

the swine at a small, rented farm located one mile out of town. Barbara follows in the footsteps of her father who exhibited market hogs at Farm Show since 1948 as

FFA projects.

Barbara's dad exhibited the reserve champion Poland China bred gilt. Super Ann was sired by a boar called Super Horse. Both sires of the champion and reserve champion are owned and raised by McConnell.

In the Hampshire competition, the champion gilt was shown by Todd Bennecoff, 13, of R2 Kutztown, Lehigh County. The gilt was sired by Todd's father's

boar, Bert, one of 40 head of purebred Hampshires and Berkshires raised on the family's 135 acre farm.

The reserve champion Hampshire bred gilt was the entry of another swine breeder from R2 Kutztown. Carl Rabenold's entry followed Bennecoff's for the reserve honors.

Once again, the bred gilts exhibited by Jammers Parlett of R2 Airville, York County,

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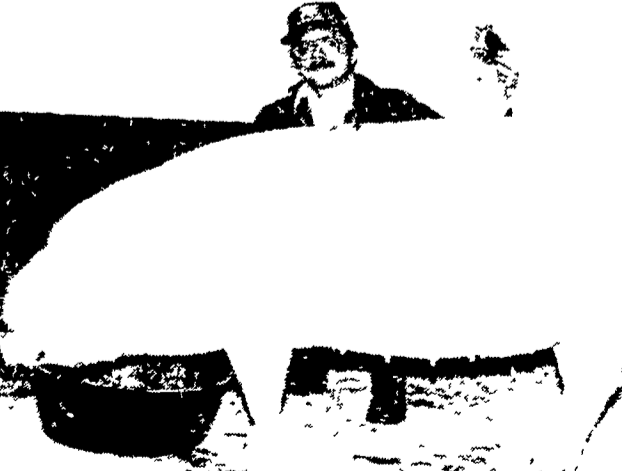
This year was the first Farm Show for Hobart Muller, New Oxford, Adams County. His February gilt, HM Martha Too, sired by the 1979 KILE champion boar, Beyond Lobo, took the reserve champion honors in the Spotted Swine show.



Calvin Lazarus & Sons, White Hall, Lehigh County, exhibited the champion and reserve champion Yorkshire bred gilt. Both champs were sired by Legend. (There are a series of pics of the champion and reserve champ — champion is first)



The champion Landrace bred gilt was shown by John Mummert, 19, of Seven Valleys, York County. The Tunnel Hill Farm champ was sired by DEO Cibbe.



Brooks End Farm, Beavertown, Snyder County, earned the reserve champion honors in the Landrace bred gilt show with their January gilt, boasting fully-imported bloodlines. Pictured with the gilt is co-owner Mark Stehr.



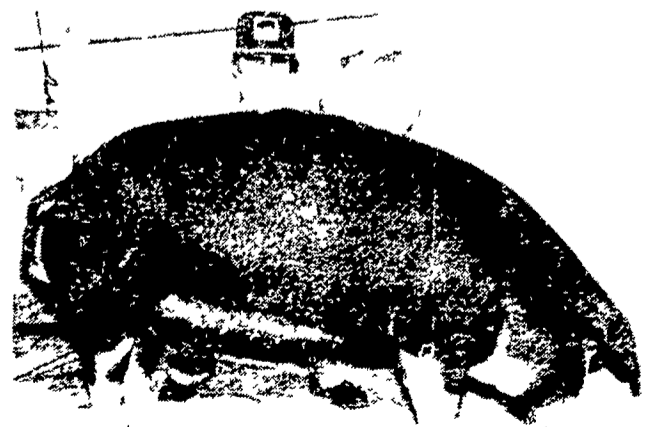
Eight-year-old James Thayer livened up the swine show and may have started a new fad in show ring garb. Decked out in a silk top hat, the lad from Erie guided his Yorkshire gilt around the ring — only catching the slip-sliding hat once or twice.



Gary Homan and daughters Bambi, left, and Kama exhibited the champion Spotted Swine bred gilt. The family from Centre Hall has been raising and showing Spots at the Farm Show for the past two years.



Glenn Ebersole, R1 Duncannon, exhibited the champion Duroc gilt in his first year of competition at Farm Show. Judge Gale Bressner, left, congratulated the winner.



Barbara J. McConnell, Volant, Lawrence County, had the champion Poland China gilt. Pictured with the champion, Power Sue, is Barbara's father, Keith McConnell, who showed the reserve champ.