

Show champion prices drop to reflect current market

FARM SHOW — Record prices, usually plentiful at the Friday junior market sales at Farm Show, were scarcer than hens' teeth this year.

The closest anyone came to a record was Michele Bankert, R3 Hanover, whose grand champion junior market hog tied the all-time sale record of \$19.50 per pound. The total price of \$4680 was a swine sale record.

Michele's entry was a heavyweight Duroc, one of 143 pigs shown in the competition. The per pound sale price tied the record set in 1979.

Michelle is the daughter of Rodger and Darlene

Bankert, hog farmers in Adams County.

The reserve champion hog, exhibited by first-time Eric Sheiss of Chambersburg, brought a respectable \$7.50 per pound, although that price was \$1 off the pace set for a reserve champ set in last year's sale. Sheiss's brother Donald had taken the grand championship in last year's show, and his hog had sold for \$17 a pound.

"Work your pig a lot, and talk to it," Eric advised.

"When your pig does something bad, you have to correct him immediately. In your spare time, have some fun," he added.

Both of this year's top two hogs were purchased by Hatfield Packing.

Auctioneer Abe Diefenbach labored long and hard to get prices up, especially in the junior beef sale.

Blaine Clowser, Dayton, had showed his 1255 pound Angus x Chianina x Limousin crossbred to the championship on Thursday afternoon.

But try as he might, Diefenbach could not get the price on Clowser's steer above \$6.10 per pound. That was a full 50 cents per pound under the price fetched by last year's grand champion.

Final bidder on "Monkey Lip" was Sizzlin' Steak House, a Carlisle restaurant.

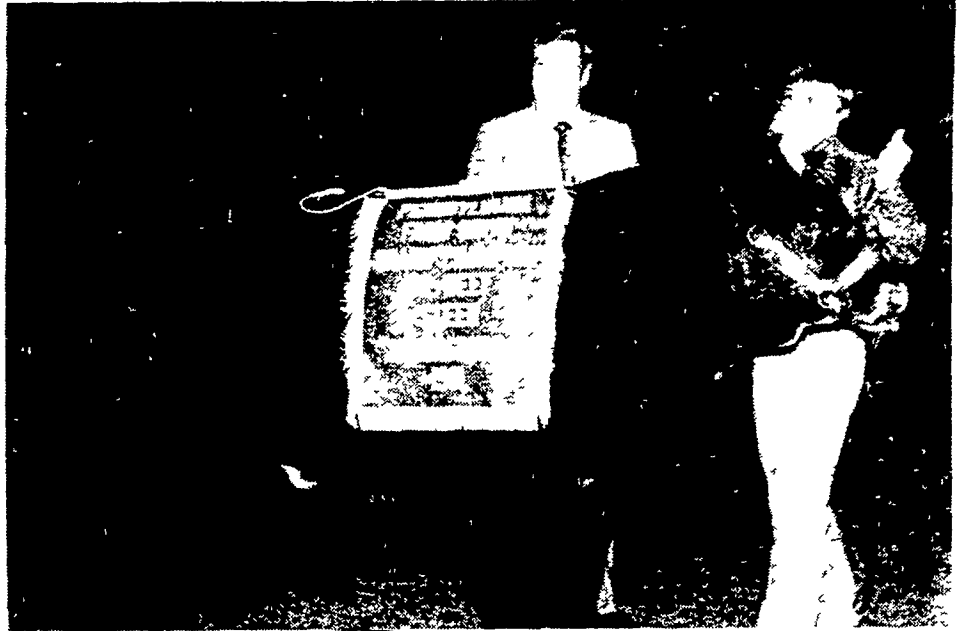
The steer brought its 17-year old showman a total of \$7655.

Although the bidding ran up quickly at first, it stalled at the \$5 level and never quite recovered its earlier momentum.

Buyers Terry Sellers, Anil Thakrar, and Susan Bratie, in the restaurant business two years said they hope to buy the grand champ every year.

Ernie Frey, R2 Quarryville, had the reserve champion at the 1981 Show. He was last year's grand champion exhibitor.

Frey's 1350-pound reserve champion steer was auctioned for \$2.60 per pound, or just over \$3500. That price was far under last year's reserve champ record price of \$3.35 a pound.



A somewhat disappointing price of \$6.10 per pound was paid for Blain Clowser's grand champion steer at Farm Show. That's 50 cents under last year's record. Reserve champion also was lower, but worst price drop was in the lamb sale where the grand champion went for about half of last year's bid.

Frey's steer was purchased by Carlos Leffler, Richland, Lebanon County.

During the sales, time was taken to honor Lancaster County Extension Director Max Smith, who has announced he will retire at the end of March.

Julie Kuzemchak, Pleasant Gap, saw her grand champion market lamb go for an even \$10 per pound. Buyer was Fox Markets, Middletown, Dauphin County.

It was the fourth time Kuzemchak has blocked out a grand champion in the sale ring at Farm Show.

That fact alone may have dampened bidder enthusiasm.

Last year, Julie's reserve champion entry fetched 50 cents more per pound than her 1981 champion. She had sold the 1980 champ for \$22 per pound, and the 1980 reserve for \$10.50.

Reserve grand champion at this year's show was showed by Barbara Herr, R2 Narvon.

Her 112 pound market lamb was sold to Larry Bubbemoyer, Mainland, Montgomery County, for \$7 a pound, well below the record price.

The grand champion carcass lamb, weighing 70 pounds and consigned by Julie Kuzemchak, bought \$3.50 a pound, again reaching only half of last year's record price of \$7 a pound.

The carcass was purchased by Raymond Seidel, Kutztown.

Gerald H. Hess, Duncansville, purchased the reserve grand champion carcass lamb, a 66 pound entry consigned by Champion Acres, Champion, Fayette County.

The second place carcass went for \$1.75 a pound.

Penn Manor to hold meetings

MILLERSVILLE — A pair of livestock meetings, one poultry and one cattle, will be held this week at Penn Manor High School.

The first meeting is will deal with poultry disease identification. It is slated for Tuesday, January 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Guest speaker will be Veterinarian Wilson Miller, a well known poultry doctor.

He will be on hand to examine laying birds, and to point out areas on a chicken's body to check for disease symptoms.

Each farmer should bring a pair of 10 or 12 inch tin snips to the meeting.

The second session will be

an embryo transplant discussion and is open to all people interested in embryo transplants in beef and dairy animals.

Guest speaker will be Dr. Carl Troop, a vet with Pennstar Embryo service.

The embryo transplant meeting will be held Thursday, January 29, at 7:30 p.m.

Both meetings will be held at the Penn Manor High School ag room.

For further information on either of the meetings, contact Jeff Hart, Penn Manor Young Farmers Advisor at the school. His phone number is 717/872-5431.

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