

Lazarus takes top honors in FFA hog show

QUAKERTOWN — Nineteen Future Farmers of America participated in the 13th Annual FFA Market Hog Show and Sale on July 8 at the Quakertown Livestock Auction. Buyers paid a total of \$10,724.10 for 80 FFA Market Hogs entered in the sale.

Annually, members of the Future Farmers of America in the four county areas sponsor a market hog show and sale for students studying vocational agriculture and are raising market hogs as their FFA projects. Students begin their projects in the middle of March each year under the direction of their vocational agriculture instructor.

Leslie Lazarus, Whitehall, a Lehigh County Vocational

Technical School junior, sold his Grand Champion market hog to Hatfield Packing Co., Hatfield, for \$2.50 per pound. The Grand Champion hog weighed 245 pounds and sold for a total of \$612.50.

Hatfield Packing Co. was also the successful bidder for the Reserve Grand Champion at \$1.95 per pound, again exhibited by Leslie Lazarus. The Reserve Grand Champion weighed 240 pounds and sold for \$468.00.

Other top winners in the Swine Show were Cheryl Wessner, Lehigh Vo-Tech, first in the Showmanship Class, first light weight class, and second place in the Fitting Class. Ronald Geissinger, Upper Bucks Tech, placed second in the light weight

class. Dale Hockman, Upper Bucks Tech, placed second in the heavy light weight class, second in the medium weight class, and second in the heavy weight class. Vernon Freed, Upper Bucks Tech, placed fourth in the Showmanship Class and fifth in the Fitting Class. Gary Natah, Upper Bucks Tech,

captured fourth in the heavy light weight class; Kathy Socker of Upper Bucks Tech placed fifth in the heavy light weight class while Ed Rick took fifth in the heavy weight class.

Other participants from the Upper Bucks Tech School were

Douglas Carr, Maria Vorhauer, Kris Shive, Duane Gahman, and Virginia Rocchino.

The participating FFA chapters included Western Montgomery, Upper Bucks Tech, Eastern Northampton and Lehigh County, A.V.T.S.

At leadership session



Two members of area FFA chapters attended a National Future Farmers of America Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. last week.

They are Steve Kauffman, left, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Kauffman, of Elizabethtown; and Kenneth Hall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Hall, of Shippensburg.

In addition to helping the FFA'ers improve their leadership skills, the conference featured visits to congressmen of the respective members.

HARRISBURG — Crops planted in Pennsylvania this year under a conservation tillage system seem to be equal, if not better, than conventional till crops, according to Soil Conservation Service officials.

John Spitzer, SCS agronomist said, "Reports from people across the state indicate there is little difference in the height of the crops when comparing the two farming practices. However, most reports show better results on conservation tillage."

SCS Information Officer Frederick Bubb states he has been watching two corn fields planted at the same time on shaly soils in Cumberland County. The conservation till corn is now shoulder high, while the corn in the plowed field is only waist high.

SCS defines conservation tillage as any planting system which leaves 1,500 pounds of corn residue or 750 pounds of small grain residue on the soil surface after the crops are planted.

"Farmers who want to make their own comparison should be looking at the leaves for signs of the corn plant drying out. Similar crops planted with conservation tillage should be growing without

stress, while the conventional till crops are beginning to show leaf roll or stress, in the southeast," noted Spitzer.

"Of course, the real comparison," continued Spitzer, "of the two farming practices will come at harvest time. The actual yield of the same crop grown on the same soil with two different farming practices will tell the real success of conservation tillage."

"Conservation tillage crops will normally be equal to or outperform conventional tilled crops. In dry years, the crops planted in last year's residue will do better than crops planted on fields that have been plowed," Spitzer said.

The real benefits of conservation tillage are reduced trips across the field, protection from erosion and

especially, the conservation of more moisture in the soil for the crop. At this time of year, it is especially important to have enough moisture for the crop's use.

"Many crops, especially corn, are beginning their silking process and need maximum moisture at this critical time. The tilling or plowing of the soil in the spring causes the soil to dry out. With conservation tillage, there is more moisture in the soil," said Spitzer.

Farmers need to start thinking about leaving this year's crop residue on the soil surface and trying conservation tillage next year. They can get help in converting to conservation tillage from the nearest Extension Service or Soil Conservation Service Office," noted Spitzer.

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