

Boar sale attracts distant buyers, sets record

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ

UNIVERSITY PARK — Pennsylvania's 4th Performance Tested Boar Sale broke previous records in two capacities Wednesday night when it packed in buyers from six states and Canada and sold boars for an average of \$541.30.

According to Reno Thomas, Brooks End Farm and breeder of the top indexing pen in the 1981 Boar Test, this new average and buyer turnout is proof of the effectiveness of the swine testing programs.

"We are now attracting the attention of hog producers all over the eastern United States. Before we had to go out of state to get test hogs," Thomas said.

Five years ago that's what Thomas had to do when he went to Ireland, purchased hogs, and introduced "new blood" to Americans.

This year's top pen is a "result of new blood lines from Ireland," Thomas said. He bred the high-indexing and the high-selling boar.

Speaking out in favor of the testing program is State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell who said, "Performance testing is an excellent way to turn genetic improvement into higher profits."

Thomas gives more support for the program by adding, "Testing gives the consumer better quality meat for less dollars — everybody profits."

And indeed everybody did profit at this sale held at the Meat Animal Evaluation Center in State College, the sale featured one Berkshire, 13 Duroc, four Hampshire, four Landrace, five Spotted and 23 Yorkshire boars, all on a controlled program.

Thomas' top indexing pen had an average daily gain of 2.17 pounds per day, 2.32 pounds of feed to produce a pound of gain and took 153 days to reach 230 pounds. The pen, sired by RTB9 Danny 194-9, averaged 64 inches of fat, 4.90 square inch loin eyes, 64.4 percent lean cuts and a final average index of 143.

High indexer from the top pen was RTB1 Danny 28-9 who had an average daily gain of 2.21 pounds, 149 days to 230 pounds, backfat of 62 inches 64.9 percent lean cuts and final index of 148. Harold Eby of Hagerstown, Md. purchased the animal for \$900.

High seller, also owned by Thomas and in the top pen, was 28-11 who had an average daily gain of 2.22, 148 days to 230 pounds, backfat of .68 inches, and a final index of

144. The high seller went for \$1500 to Shur-Gain Farm of Maple, Ontario, Canada.

The high indexing Duroc pen, the second highest pen over all breeds was owned by Calvin H. Lazarus and Sons of Busy Acres Farms, Whitehall, Centre County. The pen averaged a final index of 126. The four boars were sired by CHLS Riggin Clout.

Third high indexing pen belonged to Grandview Farms of Wellersburg, Somerset County, who consigned the top Landrace pen. The boars, sired by LNR Bigfoot 28-5 had an average daily gain of 2.16 pounds and final index of 126.

Second individual high selling boar was a Landrace owned and bred by David Korns of Grandview Farms. This boar had a final index of 148, had a daily gain of 2.14 pounds a day and took 158 days to reach 230 pounds. This boar was purchased by Brooks End Farm for \$925.

The overall sale average was up from last year — the average was \$537.50 and there were two less boars — last year 48 sold.

Although the record for the highest selling performance tested boar still remains to a Yorkshire boar which sold for \$1600 in 1978,



Reno Thomas from Brooks End Farm, Beavertown, shows a plaque he received for having the high-indexing boar at the 4th annual Pennsylvania Performance Tested Boar Sale, Wednesday night. Behind him is Bob Kimble, head of the meat animal evaluation center.

some of the breed averages were up from last year:

Eleven Duroc boars sold for an average of \$531.81 (last year 12 Durocs averaged \$508.33); five Landrace boars averaged \$600 (last year 5 Landraces averaged \$375); three Hampshires averaged

\$558.33 (last year 2 Hampshires averaged \$537.50; 22 Yorkshires averaged \$580.68 (last year 24 Yorkshires averaged \$619.79; and four Spotted boars averaged \$287.50 (last year 2 averaged \$437.50).

The 46 sold for over \$24,000.

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