

Non-farm youth shows hogs; plans to be vet



Andy Cooper, of New Chester, with his Farm Show entry.

BY J.B. ROTH

NEW CHESTER — Andy Cooper loves working with swine.

Why? "Because they are the smartest of farm animals," Cooper said.

Andy, 18, lives on the Hunterstown-Hampton Road, near New Chester and is a member of the Adams County Swine Club. He is a freshman at the Mt. Alto campus of Penn State University, majoring in animal bio-science in preparation to become a veterinarian.

He is a three-year member of the Swine Club and this will be the second year he has competed at the State Farm Show. Last year, he finished fifth in his class.

Andy raises purebred Hampshires, but he said that he has cut back his herd since he started college and now only has five sows. Andy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William D. Cooper, encourage him in his ag vocational goals.

There is a basic difference between Andy and many of other young people that will be

exhibiting at the Farm Show and that is that Andy was not raised on a farm and his family are not farmers.

"About three years ago we moved from Abbottstown to this farm. Dad went to Oklahoma State College and got a degree in agricultural education. He used to raise Hampshires in the 50's. Since we moved here, we bought some from Franklin Giesler in Taneytown, Md," he said.

This year's entry, Andy said, is better than last year's. Then, he was in a lightweight class and there was not a lot of competition. This year, the Hamp will weight about 230 pounds, if he can keep its weight down.

"I have been trying to hold his weight back. He weighed 220 pounds two weeks ago. I have been walking him alot and have put him on four pounds of feed a day," Andy said.

Andy's parents are happy that he is planning to be a vet. He said that his dad supports his penchant for swine, but his mom isn't as

keen about them.

"I like swine. They do what I want them to do and are not too stubborn usually," Andy said.

The other swine that Andy raises, he sells at the 4-H sale and sells feeders to other kids in the swine club to make money for his education.

Andy only recently made his decision to be a vet. He has talked to a local vet for guidance and information about the profession.

When touring his small compound of pens, the animals quickly came up to him and stuck their snouts out for a nudge from Andy. Although a non-farm youth, this illustrates the relationship he's developed in his chosen vocation.

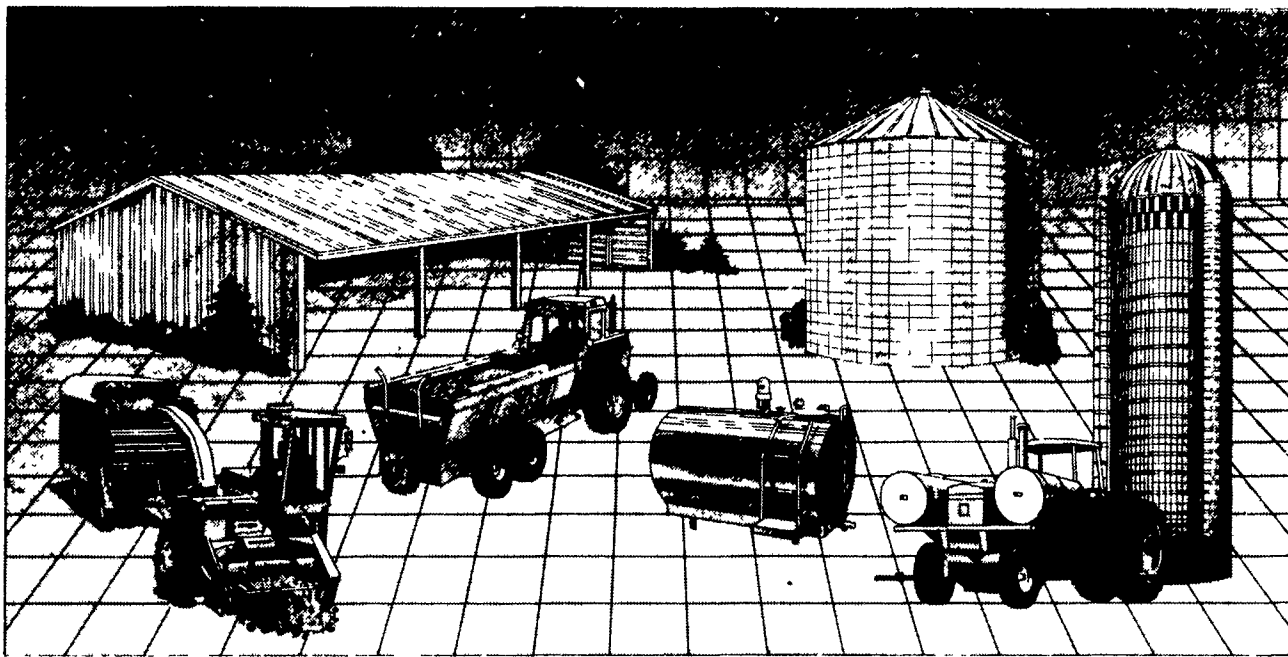
In the top 100 events

HARRISBURG — The best just keeps getting better...The Pennsylvania Farm Show, one of the largest agricultural expositions in the world, has been named to the American Bus Association's list of "Top 100" tourist events on the North American continent for 1984.

The Farm Show, scheduled during the coming week in the Farm Show Complex, joins other top nominees such as the 1984 World's Fair in New Orleans, the Indianapolis 500 and the Canadian National Exhibition in Ontario as "one of the top events to experience during 1984," according to State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell.

"The Pennsylvania Farm Show has attained a reputation that is well-known throughout the United States and Canada, and attracts visitors from across the nation and dozens of foreign countries every year," Hallowell added.

The ABA's Top 100 list is compiled annually by an independent committee, which takes nominations submitted by tourism directors from throughout the country and the Canadian provinces. Bus operators utilize the selections in planning special motorcoach tour packages. The exclusive list includes events that span the entire year.



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