

Goods

(Continued from Page A22)

Kenton selected a white Duroc-Yorkshire cross and Kurtis a red Duroc-Yorkshire cross.

When selecting their Farm Show entries, Kenton and Kurtis were looking for gilts weighing between 50 and 60 pounds that would finish out to about 220 pounds. The breed cross was also considered.

"I like the York-Hampshire cross and the Duroc-Hampshire cross," Kenton said.

According to father Ezra, these two crosses are the most popular breeds. "The York is a good mother," he said, "and the Duroc and Hampshire adds good muscling."

For Ezra, who judges swine shows himself, a meat type animal is preferred

"When I judge shows, I try to determine which animal will be best on the rail after dressing," he said. "That's what I'm trying to teach my boys"

Ezra's teaching is working Kenton said he looks for a quality pig - one which doesn't have a big belly but has nice hams and a long loin It's also helpful, he said, to have a pig that will gain about two pounds per day.

The brothers, themselves, feed their pigs daily. Their show entries have a separate feeder, and feed is weighed in buckets to determine the average daily gain. An electric watering system takes care of the watering task, but the boys check it to make sure all is working properly.

Besides feeding, Kenton and Kurtis work with their animals every evening. The pigs do get used to them from feeding, Kenton said, but extra time is needed for exercising.

"They (the boys) play with the pigs in the pen and exercise them," Ezra said. "This way, the animals get used to the kids."

And getting used to pigs is nothing new for the boys. Growing up on the farm, Kenton said he remembers the times he would sit in the pens and play with the piglets. Both boys, Ezra added, have always liked the pigs.

Their liking to pigs comes naturally. Ezra and his brother, Amos, operate a 3200 swine finishing operation. All pigs raised through their operation are sold on a grade yield basis to Hatfield Packing Company for which Ezra is a buyer.

The elder Good partners buy most of their hogs through the Mid Tennessee livestock market. The

animals are on a feed contract with Gehman Feed, of Denver. About 8,000 hogs are marketed per year.

Ezra and Amos also raise and market about 250 feeder cattle each year. In addition to the livestock, they operate a small trucking fleet and haul for Hatfield Packing and others.

Ezra said his interest in livestock trucking stemmed from his father's business. "I followed my father's (H Paul Good) footsteps," he said. "I worked for my father and drove the livestock trucks"

Will Kenton and Kurtis follow their father's footsteps? At ages 11 and 10, they have a few more years to make a final decision concerning their future, but both boys say they'd like to continue their partnership. And yes, they'd like to be farmers.

"I would also like to be a swine judge," Kenton added. "I see how my dad judges and my judging usually matches him."

With their experience and interest, the boys might just reach their goals in a continuing partnership



Ten-year-old Kurtis Good, left, and older brother Kenton, 11, are pictured when they won the reserve grand and grand champion, respectively, at the New Holland Fair last September. In the middle is Doug Clemens of Hatfield Packing who bought both champions for \$4.25 a pound.

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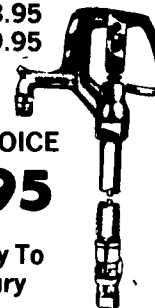
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