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Pa. Pork All-American winner Dale Nolt, left, of Manheim, receives his award from David Reinecker during the Keystone Pork Congress banquet Thursday night.

## At Keystone Congress

# Pork Producers honor Nolt

BY LAURA ENGLAND  
HARRISBURG — Lancaster County swine producer Dale M. Nolt, Manheim, was among Pa. Pork Producers Council members honored at the Keystone Pork Congress Thursday night.

Nolt, who's been involved in the swine business for most of his 30 years, was named the 1984 Pa. Pork All-American winner. In partnership with his father since 1971, Nolt raises York-Landrace sows and Duroc-Hampshire boars in his farrow to feeder pig operation.

Since the partnership was formed, Green Valley Farm has expanded into an extensive swine and livestock operation. The original partnership included the family's 60-sow herd, but was expanded in 1973 to include the entire farming operation of 200 acres, feeder steers, layer hens and the farrow to finish operation. Improvements in the swine

operation included the construction of the Nolt's first finishing barn for 300 head in 1973, a second finishing barn and a gestation barn in 1975, and a complete new farrowing barn, nursery and gestation facility in 1977.

Pleased with their current facilities, the Nolts wean about 9.5 pigs per litter and finish hogs at a feed efficiency of 2.8 to 3.2. Hogs are marketed weekly and sold on a grade-yield basis.

Nolt, a member of the Lancaster County Swine Producers, will be recognized for his Pork All-American honor during the National Pork Producers meeting in Kansas City, Mo., in March.

Three youth members were also honored and received plaques. Chris Hopple of Mechanicsburg was honored as the FFA winner while Dave Houtz of Bellefonte received 4-H honors.

Serving as secretary-treasurer

of her FFA chapter, Chris has shown pigs since she was 10 and currently owns 12 gilts of Duroc, York and Spot origin. She has been successful in the show ring and has won championship awards at the Shippensburg Fair, Farm Show and county round-up.

A 4-H member for nine years, Dave raises beef and dairy animals as well as swine. He currently owns a herd of Chester White hogs.

A 9-year-old Council member from Eighty-Four was also recognized. Lucas Koffler, who said he has five years experience in the hog industry, was awarded the junior speaking contest title during the Farm Show. Using hand gestures and props, Lucas presented his award-winning speech on pork marketing to the Council members, stressing "we have a good product to sell."

Other Council members honored  
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## PRV depopulation — Is it fair?

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

LANCASTER — Swine breeding operators are continuing to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars in Pennsylvania's pseudorabies eradication program that requires mandatory depopulation of entire herds without any form of indemnification.

In the light of the millions of dollars being spent on the poultry depopulation, hog producers are questioning both the legality and the fairness of the pseudorabies program, which was instituted by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture about seven months ago.

New PRV cases are continuing to turn up in the state — primarily in Lancaster County — and it is believed that the new federal-state pilot project of blood sampling at slaughter houses will uncover new PRV herds and affect even more producers.

Particularly hard hit when pseudorabies is found in a herd is the farrow-to-finish breeding operation.

One such operation recently hit by PRV estimates that it will require more than half of the equity in the entire farm to depopulate and resume operations.

Losses — based on what other operators have experienced in depopulation — are estimated at \$500 to \$1,000 per sow unit. For a 270-sow unit, this brings the overall figure to a quarter of a million dollars or more.

Approximately one-fifth to one-fourth of the losses are due to the difference in the breeding value of the animals and their market value when they are sent to slaughter under depopulation.

Pseudorabies poses no threat to humans and infected animals may be slaughtered.

For example, the operation lost some \$275 a head on boars — many of which had already been promised as breeding stock — which had to be sent to slaughter.

Other losses include downtime and loss of profits, which are further amplified by cessation of  
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## Dairy Mgt. Conference stresses herd health

BY TRISH WILLIAMS

UNIVERSITY PARK — Herd health was the emphasis of this year's Dairy Herd Management Conference conducted by Penn State on Thursday and Friday.

Nearly 200 dairymen filled the conference hall at the Penn State Sheraton to hear members of the Department of Dairy and Animal Science present results of their research on a variety of herd health topics.

Jerry Jones of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University was also on the panel of speakers. He addressed the need for improved dry cow care and management.

Featured speaker was Dr. Graem Mein of Australia. Dr. Mein is world renowned for his work in the area of the milking machine and mastitis. Graem made a special presentation at Thursday evening's banquet on the dairy industry in Australia.

Paul J. Wangness, head of the dairy science department, welcomed participants and stressed the need for good herd health, especially in today's economic setting.

"We remain in an uncertain situation, at best in the dairy industry," Wangness said. "Therefore we must strive for greater efficiency and reduced costs through better herd health."  
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## It's FFA Week

# Another Pa. first - exec. sec.

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

NEW HOLLAND — FFA has been a succession of firsts for Carolyn Witmer, of R2 East Earl, Lancaster County.

She was the first female FFA'er to serve as president of the Grassland Chapter in the Eastern Lancaster School District.

Last June, she moved on to the presidency of the Pennsylvania Association and thus expanded a female first to the state FFA level.

But the pioneering achievements she is helping to bring to the Pennsylvania FFA go well beyond just personal accomplishments.

For during her term as state president — which is just over its half-way point — she is playing a role in some "firsts" which will have long-range importance throughout the state and to every youth who puts on a blue and gold



Carolyn Witmer

jacket now and in years to come. Most important of these statewide firsts is the coming

naming of an Executive Secretary for the Pennsylvania Association — the first statewide position that will be devoted solely to FFA and vo-ag activities.

Witmer and other state FFA officers, Pa. Department of Education officials and Penn State ag education representatives have been quite busy recently reviewing applications for the post and it is expected that the final appointment will be coming within the next few weeks.

"There's been a need for an executive secretary for quite a while," Witmer explained.

"We hope to have the person in place on July 1."

The executive secretary would work to coordinate a number of FFA and vo-ag activities on a statewide level, including chapter  
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Participants to the Penn State Dairy Herd Management Conference were given the chance to try and stump the experts. Thursday's speakers were, from left, Larry Muller, Jerry Jones, Linda Scibilea and Dr. Larry Hutchinson.