

# Brooks End York boar tops performance sale

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS  
Staff Correspondent

STATE COLLEGE — The seventh Performance Tested Boar Sale was held during Ag Progress week at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Meat Animal Evaluation Center in State College.

Of the 80 boars from outstanding swine herds across the state, 35 met the requirements for the sale and sold to buyers from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and West Virginia. The Yorkshire breed proved to be the most sought after as 18 Yorkshire boars sold for an average of \$565.27. Fourteen Durocs were sold averaging \$425.00, two Hampshires averaged \$287.50, and one Berkshire sold for \$275.00.

For the second year, Reno Thomas, Brooks End Farm, R1, Beavertown, consigned the highest testing boar that sold for \$1,550.00, the top price of the sale. Purchased by the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Trenton, N.J., the Yorkshire hog tested at a 2.55 daily gain with a boar index of 154. With his boar index of 154, the third highest index of the sale to date, the Yorkshire weighed in at a final weight of 261 pounds. The sire of

the boar is RTB West Pit King David.

The other consignment of Thomas sold for \$800.00, also to the New Jersey Department of Corrections. The second highest selling boar in the sale, this littermate to the high selling boar took 142 days to reach 230 pounds as compared with the 136 days it took his brother.

"A lot of our breeding is imported, Large White breeding from Europe," Thomas states. "The outcross blood produces soundness and mothering ability. That's what sets ours apart," Thomas and his son-in-law, Mark Stehr said. Thomas with his brother, Park, and Stehr operate the 400-breeding sow setup at Brooks End Farm. In business for over 30 years, their stock is sold all over the Eastern United States and several foreign countries.

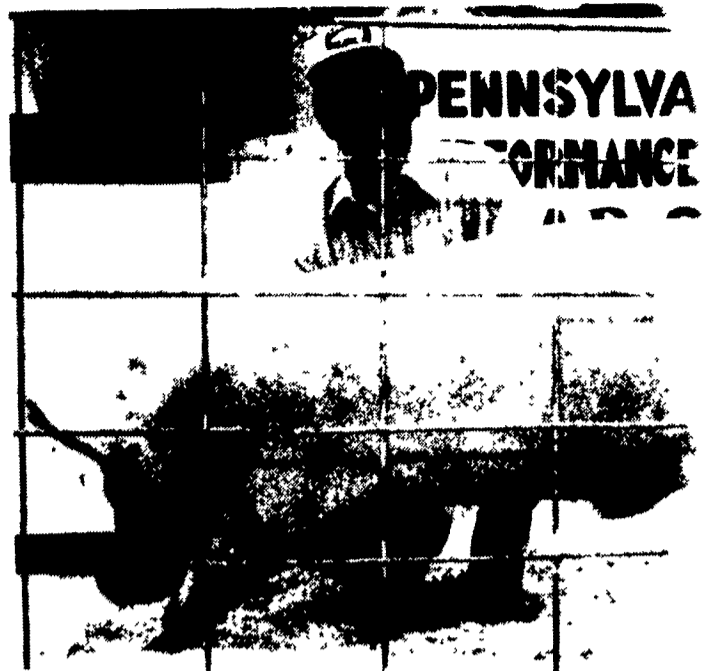
Because Landrace and Yorkshire crosses are very popular with breeders, Landrace and Duroc stock have been added to the predominant Yorkshires at Brooks End Farm. Only breeding stock is sold from the 3,000 plus purebreds on the farm and the Thomas's use this Performance Tested Boar Sale as advertising for

their production sales held four times a year. "We've tested more pigs than any other breeder," Thomas stated about this testing trial and sale.

The Yorkshire consignment of Joel E. Stern, R2, East Berlin, brought the third highest bid of \$775.00 from Hillside Acres, R1, Lenhartsville. Hillside Acres was the volume buyer of the sale with the purchase of five boars for a total of \$2800.00.

The Performance Tested Boar Sale is held each year after the testing of enrolled boars is completed. "We try to sell the top 75% of those tested," explained Ed Barben, acting director at the center. To qualify for the sale, the boar must index 90 or more points. It must have a soundness score of two or more and also an underline score of two or more. All boars are vaccinated and guaranteed by their owners to be breeders. Scoring was completed by a committee of three in accordance with the National Swine Improvement Federation recommendations and then rescored by the sale committee.

"The quality is as good or maybe better," Barben stated about this year's boars, as the auctioneer,



Mark Stehr is shown with Yorkshire boar from Brooks End Farm, Beavertown, that topped the Performance Tested Boar Sale at State College.

Harry Bachman prepared to sell the boars. Prior to the start of bidding, the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council conducted a drawing and gave out six \$50.00 certificates to buyers from their membership to use on a purchase at the sale.

Other high selling boars included:

Yorkshire - \$725.00 - Consigned by Joel E. Stern, R2, East Berlin, and sold to Bruce Lemmon, R1, Newburg, Pa.

Yorkshire - \$725.00 - Consigned by Penn State University, University Park, and sold to Brent

Hershey, R1, Marietta, Pa.

Duroc - \$700.00 - Consigned by Bruce Lemmon, R1, Newburg, and sold to Hillside Acres, R1, Lenhartsville.

Yorkshire - \$575.00 - Consigned by Elwood Houser, Lebanon, and sold to Kent Strock, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Duroc - \$525.00 - Consigned by Charles E. Smith, Washington, and sold to William Darrow, Honey Grove, Pa.

Yorkshire - \$525.00 - Consigned by David Glass, R1, Birdsboro, and sold to Gary Posbaugh, Philadelphia, Pa.

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