

Everyone pitches in at Blue Mountain Farms

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ANNVILLE — Pennsylvania has again shown its excellence in producing high quality livestock. When the final results were tabulated from the 1984 KILE Swine Show, three Pennsylvanians had claimed championships.

The market hog show at KILE includes on-foot competition which is then followed by on-rail placings. All animals shown in the live show are slaughtered to obtain carcass figures. That is where the facts are determined. When they are hanging side by side on the rail there is little room for opinion.

This year's Grand Champion Market Hog was shown by Blue Mountain Farms of Anville, Lebanon County. This Duroc, HampxYork cross pig finished with figures of 5.4 loin eye, 0.5 backfat, 33.5 carcass length, and 58.8 percent acceptable lean meat. It was sired by a Duroc boar bred by Guy Harnish of Campbelltown.

John Strawbridge of Stewartstown, York County, claimed

Reserve Grand Champion honors. The cut figures on this hog were 5.5 loin eye, 0.6 backfat, 31.8 carcass length, and 58.41 percent acceptable lean meat.

Although Blue Mountain's Champion pig had not placed in live competition, and Strawbridge's Reserve Champion placed last in its class, the Champion of the junior show remained as Champion of junior competition on the rail.

Chrisman of Chambersburg was the proud owner of this hog with final cut figures of 5.7 loin eye, 0.8 backfat, 30.7 carcass length, and 57.03 percent acceptable lean meat.

In this show, Pennsylvania breeders again proved that they can not stand up to, but surpass Midwestern hog breeders.

The Bomgardners of Blue Mountain Farms were very pleased with their winning. A few years ago they had claimed Reserve Champion honors at KILE.

Blue Mountain Farms is owned



Family involvement is the key to the success of Blue Mountain Farms. Charlie and his family assist with the dairy operation and are responsible for the hog farm.

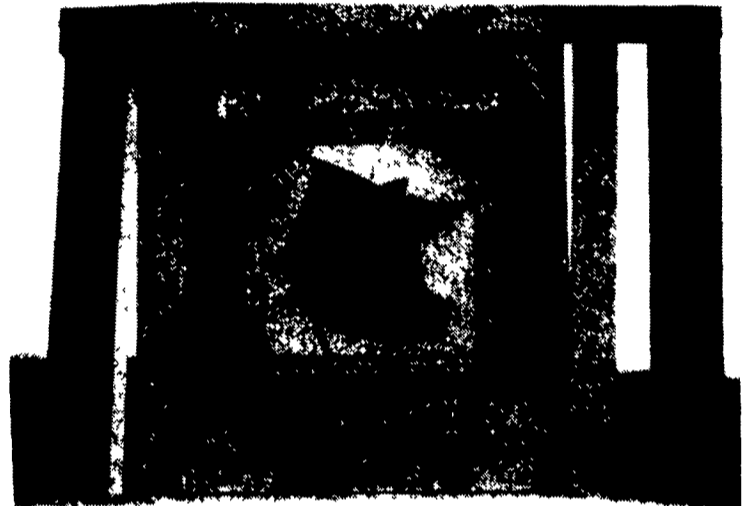
in partnership by Charlie and Carl Bomgardner. Totally a family operation, Charlie's entire family carries their share of the day to day responsibilities.

Carl handles most of the management of the 95 cow dairy operation. Charlie and his wife Marlene manage the hog portion of the farm. The entire Blue Mountain Farms includes three farms for a total of 420 acres.

Crops here include corn and alfalfa, and this year Soybeans were added for the first time. Although Carl's family is not old enough to assist with chores, Charlie's two oldest sons have taken a major role in the farm operation this year. "For the first time, this year Rodney (14) and Jeffrey (12) worked right along with the men," says their mother. She is obviously very proud of these two "young men" in the family. In fact, it has been found that they sometimes do an even better job at some of the crops work than can their uncle or father.

Both Rodney and Jeffrey are hearing-impaired and have had to exert much effort in overcoming this problem. Rodney was in the third grade when he was mainstreamed into the local elementary school. With help from his family he found it "between hard and easy," as he said at the time. Perhaps this extra effort has helped the boys to fine tune other abilities. Whatever the reason they have excelled in handling farm equipment in a professional manner.

Not to be left out in this busy family are eleven-year-old Daryl who has just started to do some



Home of Hampshires and proud of it.



Ken Wirebark, Lebanon County agent, presents check to Charlie and Carl Bomgardner, of Anville, for exhibiting Grand Champion Market Hog at KILE.

tractor driving on the farm this year. Kathy, who is ten, takes her turn at milking every other evening and has developed a real enjoyment for this responsibility. The youngest family member, eight-year-old Greg, takes his part in farm chores, too.

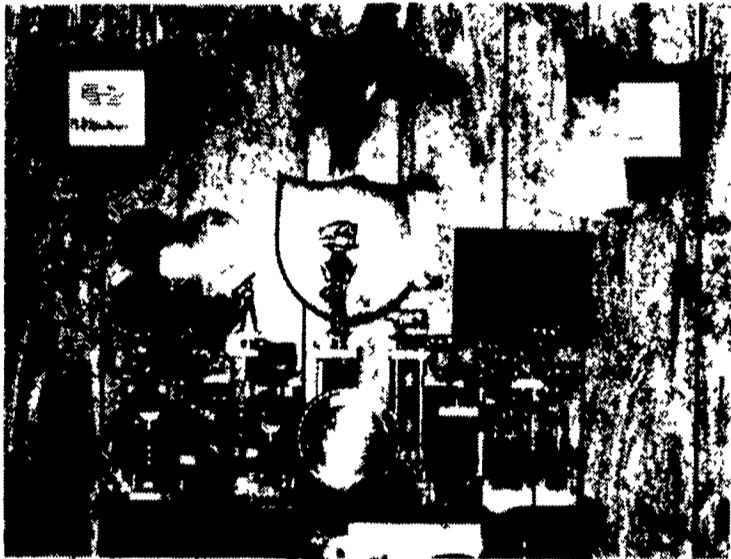
Family is important to the philosophy of this farm operation. In fact, their primary focus is not just running a profitable business. "Our number one goal is to make a living for our family in such a way that ALL they learn will be valuable to them in future years," said Charlie.

The role of family in Blue Mountain Farms began when Charlie and Carl began their involvement with their father on this farm. Their activities as they grew up included 4-H and FFA involvement. This has continued into the present. Not only are the Bomgardner children active in 4-H, but Charlie has been a

Livestock Club leader for 17 years. Every year they also donate a barrow to the Anville-Cleona FFA Chapter to be used as a project by one of the members.

The Hampshire business at Blue Mountain Farms has expanded in the past. In the fall of 1979 a 35 X 147 foot open front Nebraska-type building was erected to house hogs from eight weeks of age to purebred breeding stock. Charlie made some alterations in the plans which included a second alleyway the full length of the barn. This allows them to be able to hand feed hogs more easily (it actually cut their feeding time in half), to be better able to observe their hogs and to restrict visitors to a specific area of the barn. Nearly all of the Bomgardner's Hampshires are raised in this controlled environment, with only old sows on pasture.

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Many honors have come to the Bomgardner family of Lebanon County over the years.



Bomgardner family's commitment to 4-H is signified by emblem painted on side of barn.



Blue Mountain Farms of Bomgardners includes 420 acres. Charlie and his family live on farm that houses the purebred Hampshire operation.