

# York, Lancaster top Yorkshire/Duroc livestock judging

BY DONNA MCCONAUGHEY  
Staff Correspondent

LEBANON — The Pennsylvania Yorkshire and Duroc Associations sponsored a statewide livestock judging contest as part of their three-day Summer Show and Sale.

The contest included nearly 100 4-H and FFA members from 19 counties. Junior members traveled from as far away as Westmoreland and Lawrence counties to participate.

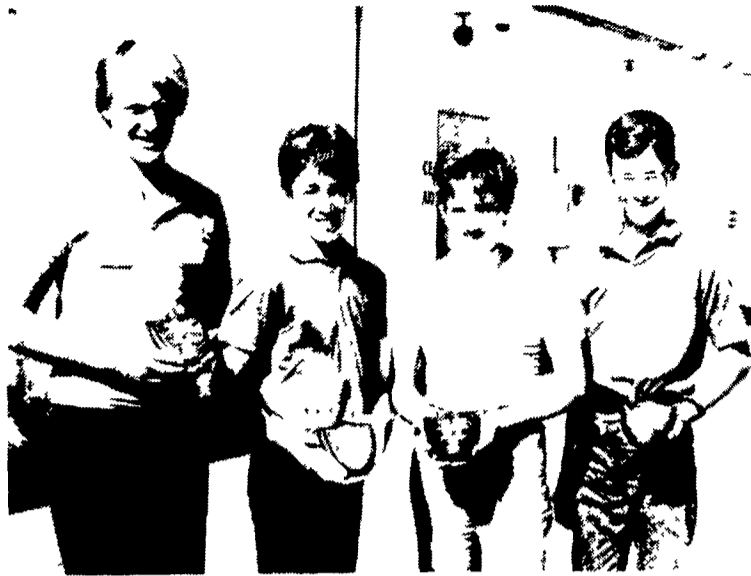
In the senior division York countian Melissa Trostle took home the highest honors. Melissa has been active in livestock and meats judging for several years. She owns a Southdown flock and has served as the National Southdown Queen. Melissa has also been active in the swine showing during her 4-H career.

Following Melissa in second place was fellow team member, Tim Ferrence. The York County Senior Team was completed by fourth place Krista Rankin, and eighth place John Myers. These top placings combined to bring York County to the top in Senior Team competition.

In the Junior Division Lancaster county's John Hess topped the competition with a score of 277. The remainder of the top placing juniors were distributed among Columbia, York, Lawrence, Lebanon, and Chester counties.

In the Junior Team competition Lancaster county came out on top. The team consisted of Doug Musser, John Hess, Dwayne Livengood, and Anna Marie Frey.

Columbia county had the second place junior team, while York county followed in third, Lebanon



Lancaster County's winning junior team included (left) John Hess, Doug Musser, Anna Marie Frey and Dwayne Livengood.

in fourth, and Berks finished fifth. More than \$500 in prizes was awarded to winners in both overall and species competition.

**Judging Results**

**SENIOR DIVISION Individual**

**SWINE**

1 Robert Rohrer Chester 2 John Myers York  
3 Kenianne Rarick Berks

**BEEF**

1 Melissa Trostle York 2 Tim Ferrence York  
3 Emily Weaver Lancaster

**SHEEP**

1 Melissa Trostle York 2 Kenianne Rarick Berks  
3 Regan Bitter Lycoming

**OVERALL**

1 Melissa Trostle York 2 Tim Ferrence York  
3 Kenianne Rarick Berks

**SENIOR DIVISION Teams**

**SWINE**

1 Betsy Colket Rob Rohrer Ken Walker  
Chester 2 Melissa Trostle Krista Rankin Tim  
Ferrence York 3 Kenianne Rarick Mike Price  
Marianne Yanos Berks

**BEEF**

1 Melissa Trostle Tim Ferrence Krista Rankin  
York 2 Betsy Colket Rob Rohrer Ken Walker  
Chester 3 Emily Weaver Tricia Musser Jeff  
Craig Lancaster

**SHEEP**

1 Kenianne Rarick Mark Price Marianne  
Yanos Berks 2 Melissa Trostle Tim Ferrence  
Krista Rankin York 3 Annette Lovell Scott  
Gretchen Regan Bitter Lycoming

**OVERALL TEAMS**

1 Melissa Trostle Tim Ferrence Krista Rankin  
John Myers York 2 Betsy Colket Rob Rohrer  
Ken Walker Greg Davis Chester 3 Kenianne  
Rarick Mark Price Marianne Yanos Berks

**JUNIOR DIVISION Individual**

**SWINE**

1 John Hess Lancaster 2 John George  
Columbia 3 Jeff Baumgardner Lebanon

**BEEF**

1 Roxanne Kirst Lebanon 2 Scott Best  
Juniata 3 John Hess Lancaster

**SHEEP**

1 Jessica Mott Westmoreland 2 Lydia Best  
Juniata 3 Roxanne Kirst Lebanon

**OVERALL**

1 John Hess Lancaster 2 John George  
Columbia 3 Sonya Shearer York

**JUNIOR DIVISION Teams**

**SWINE**

1 Doug Musser John Hess Dwayne Livengood  
Lancaster 2 John George Bret Keller Aaron  
Davidson Columbia 3 Shelby Heagy Jason Krall  
Jeff Baumgardner Lebanon

**BEEF**

1 Shelby Heagy Jason Krall Jeff Baumgardner  
Lebanon 2 Kathy Shive Robin Shive Sonja  
Shearer York 3 Matthew Hancock Scott Best  
Lydia Best Juniata

**SHEEP**

1 Matthew Hancock Scott Best Lydia Best  
Juniata 2 John George Bret Keller Aaron  
Davidson Columbia 3 Paula Hunter Valerie  
Hunter Jennifer Schnabel Berks

**OVERALL TEAMS**


1 Doug Musser John Hess Dwayne Livengood  
Anamary Frey Lancaster 2 John George Bret  
Keller Aaron Davidson Eddy Chapman Columbia  
3 Cathy Shive Robin Shive Sonja Shearer David  
Myers York



Top scorers in the Pennsylvania York and Duroc Associations' livestock judging contest were Melissa Trostle of York County in the senior division, and Lancaster County's John Hess in junior division.



York County entered the winning senior team. Members are (left) Melissa Trostle, Tim Ferrence, John Myers and Krista Rankin.



## Pork Prose

by  
**Kenneth B. Kephart**  
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## Recordkeeping for the seedstock producer

The purebred industry is not in the process of expansion. In fact, numbers are shrinking for most breeds. Why? For one thing, economic times in the hog business are miserable. We can't do much about that.

But it goes a little deeper than hog prices. I've talked to many folks on the commercial end of production that aren't finding what they want from the purebred man.

### Purebred Problems

One problem is volume. For example a purebred producer with 25 or even 50 sows can't supply a commercial operation with 100 gilts in one crack. Should this producer expand so he can accommodate large orders? No. If 25 sows is the right herd size for an individual then he has no business expanding.

Health can be an obstacle. Some purebred operations are plagued with rhinitis or mange—problems that commercial herds do not need. Other seedstock producers, through no fault of their own, are in a bad location. For example, the concentration of pseudorabies in the southeast counties of Pennsylvania hasn't helped purebred sales in that area.

And there's another important factor. Quality. Here the com-

mercial man is asking for three things—soundness, performance and carcass merit, probably in that order. No one would question that we need all three. But I've met too many purebred producers that rank carcass merit on the top and soundness on the bottom. The Kleen Leen's and Dekalb's may owe their existence to this conflict in priorities.

We've talked about soundness for years. And we've made progress, but not enough.

And we've talked about performance for years. But as an industry, I'm not sure we've made any progress. Why not? Because we've relied on looks and fads and not on records.

The genetic potential is out there. But to find it, you have to blow the dust off your scales and you have to write things down.

In my book, the essential records for the purebred producer include:

- Identification.
- Number born live.
- 21-day litter weight.
- Days to 230.
- Backfat probe.

With these five pieces of information you can construct indexes. The indexes help you make progress by making the right decisions.

### Selection Indexes

**General Index** - Includes number born live, 21-day litter weight, days to 230 and backfat.

**Maternal Index** - Uses the same traits as the general index but puts more emphasis on number born live and 21-day weights. This index could be used for replacement gilts.

**Paternal Index** - Uses the same traits as the general index but puts more emphasis on days to 230 and backfat. This index could be applied to boars used in a terminal cross program.

**Sow Productivity Index** - This one's the most popular. It includes number born live and 21-day litter weight. Used to rank sows against others within the same breed and farrowing group.

$$SPI = 100 + 6.5(L - \bar{L}) + (W - \bar{W})$$

- L = No. born live
- $\bar{L}$  = Avg. no. born live for group
- W = 21-day litter weight
- $\bar{W}$  = 21-day litter weight for group

**Most Probable Sow Productivity (MPSP)** - Estimates future production of sow. Takes into account the sow's average SPI and the number of litters. Use this to decide whether to keep or cull a sow.

**Breeding Value for Sow Productivity (BVSP)** - Estimates ability to transmit productivity to offspring. Based on average SPI and the number of litters. Use this to find the best sows to produce your replacements.

Contact me or your county agent for the particulars on these indexes.

### Alternative Programs

As a purebred producer, are

## Maryland Shorthorn breeder gets national ASA award

OMAHA, Nebr. — Howell F. "Buddy" Eyer of Myersville, Md., was recently named one of seven recipients of the American Shorthorn Association's "Builders of the Breed" award, according to ASA executive secretary-treasurer Dr. Roger E. Hunsley.

Eyer, his wife, Isabell, and daughters, Susie and Margie, are involved with the promotion of Shorthorn cattle and they were the focus of an article in the Maryland Farmer discussing the Shorthorn

there other programs you can use? Yes. The American Yorkshire Club will index your purebred sows for a minimal fee no matter what breed they are. They use these same principles but include only the maternal traits.

Will indexes provide fast progress? No. It takes time and a lot of effort. You have to collect records on every animal or the indexes won't be accurate or honest. But in a few years you'll have a better handle on your herd performance. You can use the indexes to price breeding stock. And the commercial producer that's buying from you will know what he's getting.

A select few purebred breeders already collect and use records. If you don't ask yourself why. Your answers will probably sound like excuses.

resurgence and their role in that development in Maryland. The Eyer daughters were heavily involved in the junior programs on the county, state, and national levels.

Eyer is a member of the American Shorthorn Association; the Maryland Shorthorn Association (he has served several terms on the board of directors); and the Shenandoah Valley Shorthorn Association. His family has hosted the Maryland-Virginia Shorthorn Field Day and the Maryland Shorthorn Family Picnic. He has served as sale manager of the Maryland Shorthorn Association Fall Calf Sale and the Shenandoah Valley Shorthorn Association Spring Sale. The firm sponsors several Shorthorn trophies at fairs in Maryland and Virginia.

Eyer is a recipient of the Maryland 4-H Alumni Award, serves as a 4-H leader in Montgomery County and is past superintendent of the Montgomery County Fair 4-H beef department. He is a member of the Montgomery County Cooperative Agricultural Center and the Maryland Farm Bureau.

Recipients of the prestigious national award are nominated by their state associations. The final selection is determined by a vote involving all past recipients.