

# Bennecoff homegrown hog tops Market Swine Show

**BY JACK HUBLEY**  
**HARRISBURG** — Show judge Dr. Gene Isler of Columbus, Ohio, was impressed. "We have proof out here that we can put together performance, profitability, function and soundness," said Isler at the conclusion of this year's Junior Market Swine Show.

The pig that made the biggest impression on Isler was "the totally big pig" shown by Todd Bennecoff of Kutztown. "He's the biggest pig out here in terms of length, depth and width of body," Isler said after giving the nod to Bennecoff's 236-pound Hampshire-Yorkshire cross for grand champion honors.

Only four months old, the heavily muscled barrow was bred and raised by 18-year-old Bennecoff, who, himself, seems to be well bred for the swine business. A third-generation pork producer, Todd bought his champion's dam, a Yorkshire sow, from his grandfather, Calvin Lazarus, a swine breeder with half-a-century of experience in the purebred business. Todd also purchased the

top porker's Hampshire sire from long-time Farm Show exhibitor John Strawbridge of Stewartstown.

The son of Terry and Carol Bennecoff, Todd graduated from Northwestern High School and is already off to a running start in the swine business as the owner of 300 Hampshire, Berkshire and crossbred hogs.

For his reserve champion, Isler chose Sam, a 242-pound Hampshire-Duroc barrow shown by Chadd Folker of New Holland.

This is the second time in four years of Farm Show market hog competition that 12-year-old Folker has ended up in the winner's circle. Chad's 1983 grand champion and this year's reserve were both bred by Lyle Bidner, a purebred producer from Illinois.

"He has the type of hog that I've always liked," notes Chadd's father, Tony Folker, who buys about 20 pigs from Bidner every spring. Todd's sister, Laura, showed another Bidner pig in 1982 that took champion honors in the heavyweight division.



Judge Gene Isler (left) congratulates Todd Bennecoff, Kutztown, on his grand champion victory in a competitive Market Swine Show.

But good breeding isn't all that goes into the making of a Farm Show winner, according to Chadd's father. "You need a decent pig, and a lot of luck," he concludes.

Following are results of the market swine show and the showmanship contest that followed.

- Jr Market Swine**  
**Lightweight 1**  
 1 Greg Bankert 2 Tom Kinder 3 Daryl Grumbine
- Ltwt 2**  
 1 Chris Wherley 2 Brian Bankert 3 Rod McConn
- Ltwt 3**  
 1 Dave Hess 2 Jeffrey Bomgardner 3 Jerry Stermer
- Lightweight Champion**  
 Dave Hess Lancaster  
**Ltwt Reserve Champion**

- Greg Bankert York**  
**Middleweight 1**  
 1 Darren Grumbine 2 Jeff Byers 3 Tim Rohaley
- Middlewt 2**  
 1 Greg Christman Jr 2 Jennifer Arnold 3 Paul Breaud
- Middlewt 3**  
 1 Guy Kuhns 2 Mark Umberger 3 Cathy Harlacker
- Champion Middleweight**  
 Greg Christman Franklin  
**Middlewt Reserve**  
 Guy Kuhns Lehigh  
**Light Heavywt 1**  
 1 Ryan Rohrer 2 Carl Smoker 3 Kevin Horst
- Light Heavywt 2**  
 1 Todd Bennecoff 2 Matt Horchler 3 Matt Stoltzfus
- Light Heavywt 3**  
 1 Laura Folker 2 Don Sheiss 3 Steve Harman
- Lt Hvywt Champion**  
 Todd Bennecoff Lehigh  
**Reserve Lt Hvywt**  
 Laura Folker Lancaster

- Heavyweight 1**  
 1 Chad Folker 2 Judy Petersheim 3 Stacy Nestleroth
- Heavyweight 2**  
 1 Tammy Balthaser 2 Donald Kleinfelter 3 James Parlett
- Heavyweight 3**  
 1 Todd Neifert 2 Debra Curtis 3 David Sheiss
- Heavyweight Champion**  
 Chad Folker Lancaster  
**Heavyweight Reserve**  
 Todd Neifert Lancaster  
**Grand Champion Market Hog**  
 Todd Bennecoff Lehigh  
**Reserve Grand Champion**  
 Chad Folker Lancaster  
**Showmanship**  
**12 & Under**  
 1 Beth Nestleroth 2 Shelly Townsend 3 Darren Grumbine
- 13 15**  
 1 Jeffrey Bomgardner 2 Shawn Hancock 3 Rod McConn
- 16 and up**  
 1 Jeff Byers 2 Jere Hoover 3 James Parlett



Reserve champion honors went to Chadd Folker of New Holland.

## Bobbin Bunch tops Sheep to Shawl Contest

**HARRISBURG** — The Bobbin Bunch, spinning to a packed house, shuttled the grand champion title and teamed up with Deb Bittenbender in the auction ring during the sixth annual Pennsylvania Sheep to Shawl Contest held Wednesday evening in the small arena.

The Bobbin Bunch spun and loomed a 92x23 inch, 100 percent wool shawl in shades of blue and cream in just 130 minutes to win the grand champion title. The auction of the shawl then tied Farm Show's 1985 national record by selling to Deb Bittenbender of Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, for \$600. The previous record was held by Rich Brandt Real Estate of Reading, Berks County.

The winning team included Diane Huddleston of Macungie, Lehigh County; Northampton Countains Betsy Johnson of Bethlehem, Alice Gillespie of Danielsville and Jean Sattler of Easton; and Jim Shearer of Mountville, Lancaster County. The team received \$150 in premiums and a travelling trophy sponsored by the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers.

The Pick-Away-Spinners, representing Berks County, winners of the 1985 competition, captured the 1986 reserve grand champion title and \$125 in premiums. Successful buyer at \$160 was Ray Hillard, Jr. of Gossett Livestock Pre-Mixes of Mifflintown, Juniata County. Team members Candy Franklin of Kutztown, Sue Hollowbush of Fleetwood, Marna MacKay of Boyertown, Shirley Waid of Oley and Randy Stitzel of Fleetwood, make a stripe in herringbone twill shawl in cream, rust and curry

tweed. The packed crowd in the small arena waited with nervous anticipation as four teams scrambled to finish their shawls within the time limit. Nine teams consisting of a sheep shearer, three spinners and one weaver had two hours and fifteen minutes to take the wool from the sheep, then spin and weave the wool into a finished shawl.

Auctioneer Harry Bachman's gavel dropped at \$120 to David Hume of Camp Hill, Cumberland County, as successful bidder of the third-place shawl. The shawl was made by Berks Countians Candace Campbell of Reading, Faye Kirck of Lincoln Park, Sherry Filman and Edna Ross of Sinking Springs, representing the Spinning Woollets.

Fiber Freinds representing Schuylkill County placed fourth, selling their shawl to David Schneider of Waverly, NY. A Huntingdon County team, the Hill and Hollow Handspinners, captured fifth place honors, selling their shawl to Marvin W. Waid of Oley Engineering & Associates of Berks County.

The Welsh Mountain Kindred Spirits, placing sixth, were also selected by fellow exhibitors for the coveted Teams Choice Award. Each member was given an opportunity to vote for the shawl of their choice during the competition. The navy, violet and plum colored shawl sold to Daryl Breniser of Bricikerville, Lancaster County, for \$155.

Three teams received honorable mention in the competition, including the Butler County Pedlers, selling their shawl for \$115 to Willie



Competitors in Wednesday evening's Sheep to Shawl contest work against a deadline to be the first to complete their shawls.

Kreider of Stauffers of Kissel Hill, the Spin Thrifts from Butler County, selling their shawl to Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Mike McGovern for \$75, and the Barefoot Treadlers from southeastern Pennsylvania, selling their shawl to Farm Show Commissioner Dennis Grumbine, Evergreen Tractor Company, Lebanon, for \$105.

Another highlight of the evening was a 4-H spinning and weaving exhibition by 14 members of the Butler County Cottontail 4-H Club. The Cottontail Twisters, making a 100 percent wool scarf, sold it for \$55 to Sherman Allen of Nicholls &

Allen Real Estate in Conneaut Lake, Crawford County.

Not to be outdone, the Fuzzy Bunny Bobbins sold their angora rabbit scarf to Helen Miller of Petticoat Lampshades, New Oxford, Adams County, for \$150. Proceeds from the scarves will go toward the 4-H's travel expenses to the Farm Show.

Harry Bachman of Annville, Lebanon County, received a special award during the evening, a 100 percent wool shirt, sponsored by Woolrich Inc. Bachman has volunteered his services to the industry for the past six years.

Travelling from Ohio, the four

judges scored teams on shearing, spinning, weaving, design of the shawl, speed and team identification. Paul Getz of Canal Winchester, Lorna Kenreich of Baltimore, and Pat & Larry Bullen of Columbus officiated.

For more information regarding the sheep competition, write to SHEEP TO SHAWL, Bureau of Markets, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110. The contest was sponsored by the Pa. Sheep and Wool Growers Association, Woolrich, Inc. of Clinton County, the Pa. Meat Marketing Program and the State Farm Show Commission.