

Pork Congress

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old pork producer was honored at the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council's Keystone Pork Congress on Thursday at the Penn Harris Motor Inn.

Each year since 1970, the PPPC has picked an outstanding producer under 40 years of age to receive the Council's highest honor. The Council then underwrites the winner's trip to the National Pork Producers Council's annual convention, this year to be held in St. Louis on Mar. 12.

Although he may not have realized it at the time, young Hepler was being groomed for the swine business long before he entered college. His father had been raising swine on the home farm since it was purchased in 1952, and Lyndon recalls that he always liked the pig business. As most farmers do, he enjoys the outdoor work and flexible hours, at the same time acknowledging that farming in the '80's is not an easy way for his wife, Dianne, and him to make a living.

At present the father-son team runs a 95-sow farrow-to-finish operation. Last year they farrowed 11.2 pigs per litter, with 9.9 pigs weaned. The Heplers sold 1700 market hogs last year, along with 100 feeder pigs.

Lyndon likes to use predominantly Yorkshire sows and services his herd with Hampshire, Duroc and Spot boars purchased

mostly from local purebred breeders. He keeps a close eye on the Penn State performance test program to stay up to date on the top bloodlines.

The livestock business being what it is these days, Hepler feels that one of his biggest assets is a low debt load. Beyond that, good management takes over.

One of the best management decisions he and his father have made, says Lyndon, was to buy all their corn in the fall and dry it using their own air drying system.

This method provides consistently high quality corn. "Before, we were just buying hand-to-mouth, and we weren't getting the same quality from one batch to another," he says.

Another wise move, he notes, was the renovation of the operation's 24-crate farrowing house in 1982. Improvements included raised crates, raised nursery deck pens and an end-wall heat exchanger.

Designed by Penn State ag engineer, Dan Meyer, the heat exchanger separates incoming air and exhaust air by a single layer of aluminum, allowing the air coming into the building to be heated as

much as 40 degrees when outside temperatures hover around zero.

Hepler is happy to report that his herd has suffered no disease setbacks, a trend he hopes to continue by isolating all incoming boars for 30 days.

In addition to their swine operation, the family also grows 160 acres of corn, hay and small grains on the 200 acres that make up the two adjoining farms.

Lyndon augments his farming activities by serving on the boards of both the Schuylkill County Extension Association and the Tri-County Pork Producers. He also serves as church council secretary.

Each year PPPC also recognizes two young livestock producers for their involvement and achievements with swine. This year's 4-H Outstanding Pork Producer is Elsie Hower, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Junior Hower of Catawissa (Columbia Co.). Recipient of the FFA Outstanding Pork Producer award is Bo Bush, the son of Judith McManus of Delta, (York Co.)

In its kick-off year the first annual Pork Bowl contest saw 4-H and FFA teams from five counties competing. The Chester County 4-H team came out on top, with York

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PPPC named two outstanding young pork producers. At left is FFA award recipient Bo Bush with 4-H winner Elsie Hower.

Sale Reports

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A Public Auction of farm machinery and antiques was held February 12 for the estate of Olin Shuman, 8 miles west of Hazleton along Mountain Road. It was a very cold day but the sale was well attended.

Some prices were: oak sideboard \$620, Oak Hoosier cabinet \$580, oak 3 pc. bedroom suite \$620, oak hall rack \$460, water bench \$230, oak highboy chest of drawers \$435, Int. 3-bottom plows \$1250, 2 Ferguson 20 tractors \$1200 & \$950, Ford 6000 tractor \$875, gravity wagon \$510, 1970 Ford farm truck \$850, and 2 10'x30' portable pig pens \$575 each.

The sale was conducted by Fraley Auction Co.

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A Public Sale of farm machinery was held February 13 by Glenn E. Raudabaugh, between Carlisle and Mt. Holly Springs, Cumberland Co., Pa.

Some items sold included: skid loader \$3200, hay wagon \$320, grinder-mixer \$2000, snowmobile \$190, rake \$290, M.F. 880 plow \$350, A.C. D19 tractor \$2300, M.F. 1100 D tractor \$6000, Oliver 88 tractor & corn picker \$2050, elevator \$90, M.F. 175 D tractor \$3650, 4 weights for tractor \$108 and M H 44 Special tractor \$600.

Kling's Auction Service conducted the sale

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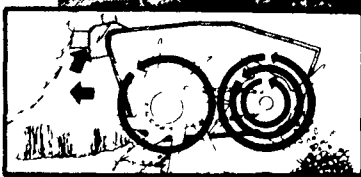


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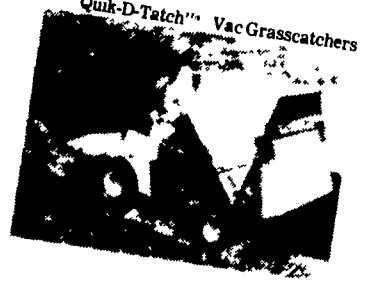
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