

# Central Cove FFA Tops Blair-Bedford Market Hog Show

**BY BETSY STITT**  
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LEAMERSVILLE — A Central Cove FFA'er captured top honors at the area FFA market hog sale July 7 with his homebred mixed breed entry.

Eric Blattenberger of Martinsburg exhibited the show's

grand champion at Farmer's Livestock Market. Topping entries from peers in Blair and Bedford

counties, his heavyweight hog weighed in at 266 pounds and commanded a price of \$4 per pound. Shaw Packing of Newry purchased it for \$1,064.

## Snyder Co. Hog Producers Hold Sale

BEAVERTOWN — Buyers from seven states and Canada took home swine from the annual summer sale held by Brooks End Farm and Par Kay Farms of Beavertown on June 27.

The sale's top animal was a Yorkshire bred gilt sold to Irvin Zimmerman of Swarthmore for \$675. The top selling Yorkshire boar went for \$625 to Bill Johnson of Clarks Hill, Indiana. The top bid for a Landrace bred gilt was \$430 offered by Alvin Shaffer of Dalmatia, and the sale's top

Landrace boar went to Bruce Esham, Millsboro, Delaware, for \$440.

Average sale prices were as follows: Yorkshire bred gilts, 32 head, \$347; Yorkshire boars, 28 head, \$364; Landrace bred gilts, 28 head, \$335; Landrace boars, 5 head, \$348; commercial open gilts, 62 head, \$184.

The sale's 157 head sold for \$43,860, with 93 head of purebred boars and gilts averaging \$350. Auctioneer for the sale was Mike Jones, West Point, Georgia.

Brian Hinton, also of Central Cove Chapter, showed the reserve grand champion. Brian's 252-pound hog was second in the heavyweight class and sold for \$2.50 per pound. Hatfield Packing paid \$630 for the reserve.

Third place overall went to a hog owned by Carol Anderson of the Bedford Chapter. Hatfield Packing paid \$1.40 a pound for the 222-pound hog, for a total of \$310.80.

Hatfield also purchased the fourth place overall pig for \$297.60. Gina Hall of the Northern Bedford Chapter exhibited the 248-pounder, which sold for \$1.20 per pound.

Hollidaysburg Trust bought Kevin Rhodes' 204-pound hog for \$255. The Central Cove Chapter member's hog commanded a price of \$1.25 per pound.

Ezra Good of Hatfield Packing judged the 180 market hogs, which had an average weight of 219 pounds.

Auctioneer was Eugene Gontis. Sale average was \$67.94 per hundredweight including champions, and \$64.49 without champions.

Other organizations helping with the show and sale were: Martinsburg Boosters, ribbons; Curryville Agway, grand champion trophy; Keystone Feed and Flour, reserve champion trophy; and Farmer's Livestock Market, who donated facilities and com-

mission to the Blair-Bedford-Fulton FFA Activities Fund.

Chapters represented were: Tyrone, Bellwood, Antis, Williamsburg, Central Cove, Everett, Bedford, Northern Bedford, Chestnut Ridge and Bedford.

Following are the top three placings in each class.

**Lightweight**  
(172-218 pounds)  
1. Kevin Rhodes, 2. Lamar Keith,

3. Dale Pheasant.  
**Medium Lightweight**  
(220-232 pounds)

1. Carol Anderson, 2. Randy Rhodes, 3. Brad Diehl.

**Medium Heavyweight**  
(238-252 pounds)

1. Gina Hall, 2. Andy Greenleaf, 3. Mike Burket.

**Heavyweight**  
(254-286 pounds)

1. Eric Blattenberger, 2. Brian Hinton, 3. Carol Frederick.



Brian Hinton (right) sold his reserve champion to Ezra Good of Hatfield Packing for \$2.50 a pound.

## LIVESTOCK LATEST




## Keystone Supreme Champs



Supreme Champion Ram honors at the Keystone Stud Ram and Ewe Show, held July 11 and 12 at State College, went to Peter D. Ambra (right) of Skowhegan, Me. This Shropshire spring ram lamb sold to David Harpster, Boalsburg.




Robert C. Elander, (right) Saugerties, N.Y., captured the Supreme Champion Ewe title at the Keystone Stud Ram and Ewe Show. Cheryl Burrows, Ava, N.Y., later purchased this Oxford ewe.



## Flock Forum

by  
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### Do Teaser Rams Really Work?

Ram selection, flushing ewes, breeding period, and use of teaser rams are some important decisions that can influence flock productivity. To realize the advantages of all these factors it is also important that plans begin well in advance of the breeding season. The following discussion reports on some recent work using teaser rams and how the practice can influence lambing performance.

Research shows that pheromones produced by the ram stimulate the advancement of the breeding season by two to three weeks and can synchronize the ewes. Pheromones are specialized hormones, which are released by the ram and smelled by the ewe. In addition to the prepuce gland, the pheromones are found in the wool and wax that accumulates around the ram's eyes. Research has also shown that visual or physical contact with the ram is not necessary to stimulate the ewes. Some New Zealand work reported that ram's wool rubbed on the muzzle of a group of ewes three times a day stimulated estrus in 48 percent of the ewes, compared to 50 percent that responded when rams were physically placed with them.

Some recent work at the University of California clearly showed that teaser rams can be effectively used to synchronize ewes. One group was exposed to teaser rams before breeding, while the second group was isolated from rams until breeding started on August 1st. Forty-four percent of

the ewes exposed to teaser rams lambed in the first seven days of lambing, while only 11 percent of the ewes that had not been exposed to teaser rams lambed during the same period. Similar results have been observed at the University of Wyoming when teaser rams were placed with the ewes three weeks prior to breeding. Eighty-four percent of the flock lambed during the first 17 days of lambing, with the vast majority of those ewes lambing within a week.

Some New Zealand work also reports a possible ram breed effect. When Dorset rams were used as teasers, 67 percent of the ewes were bred during the first two weeks of their breeding season, compared to 34 percent when Romney rams were used as teasers. However, a California trial using Dorset and Suffolk rams as teasers found no significant difference in the ram's ability to stimulate the ewe's onset of estrus during the first week of May.

Just how ram pheromones stimulate ewes is unknown, but it is known that within 10 minutes of the introduction of the ram or the pheromone bearing material, ewes that are stimulated will start secreting hormones from their pituitary glands.

These hormones cause the ewe to ovulate within three days. This ovulation is not accompanied by behavioral estrus and therefore is referred to as a "silent heat."

Upon ovulation, a corpus luteum (CL) forms on the ovary at the point where the egg or ovum was ovulated. Approximately 30 to 40 percent of the time, the CL func-

tions for a normal period of time. In this case, the ewe will exhibit a normal behavioral estrus in 18 to 20 days after the teaser ram was first placed in with the ewes. However, in the remaining 60 to 70 percent of the ewes, the CL will regress prematurely; in which case, the ewe will have a second ovulation within six to seven days after the teaser ram was introduced to the ewes. This ovulation is also accompanied with a "silent heat." The CL that forms as a result of this second ovulation regresses normally and the ewe will have a normal behavioral estrus within 16 to 18 days, at which time the ewe can be bred. In other words, in the case of a prematurely regressing CL, the first behavioral estrus will occur 22 to 24 days after the teaser ram is introduced to the ewes. Therefore, there will be two peaks in behavioral estrus following the use of a teaser ram: the first will take place 18 to 19 days after the ram was introduced, in the case of the normal regressing CL, and the second will take place 23 to 24 days after ram introduction. This results in the ewes being synchronized over a six to seven day period.

It is important to note that ewes must be completely isolated from rams for about two months before introduction, of the teaser rams, to receive stimulation from the ram's pheromones. It is also suggested that rams be kept a half mile from the ewes to prevent the ewes from picking up the ram scent during this period.

Intact or vasectomized rams can be used to stimulate ewes. A sturdy fence or panels between the ewes and an intact ram can function well during the teasing period, whereas the vasectomized ram can run with the ewes.

#### Circleville Farm Tour August 2

Pasture rotation, principles of pasture establishment, types of sheep forage crops, fencing systems, basic sheep handling and lambing facilities will be viewed and discussed by PSU faculty at the Circleville Farm. This tour is in conjunction with the upcoming Performance Ram Lamb Sale scheduled for 4:00 p.m., August 2, at the Meat Animal Evaluation Center, PSU.

A lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. at the Ag Arena for all persons wanting to participate in the Farm Tour. The tour group will leave from the Ag Arena at 1:00 p.m. and return by 2:30 p.m.