Elizabethtown Sale

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across the block averaged 66 cents pound, not counting Doug Musser's champion that brought the top bid of \$1.07. The buyer of Musser's champion was Frank Groff of Groff's Meats, Elizabethtown. The sale's four steers brought \$3,554.

The sale's high overall bid was offered by Leroy Fox of Fox's Markets, Middletown, who set a fair record by offering \$6 per pound for Mark Tracy's champion sale lamb. By far the sale's most active lamb buyer, Fox was high bidder on 12 of the 26 animals of-

fered.

The lamb sale grossed \$4,321, for an average price of \$1.33 per pound, not including the champion.

Just as Fox's Markets dominated the lamb sale, Hatfield Packing was the event's most active hog buyer. Hatfield bought both the champion and reserve hogs, paying \$4.20 a pound for Chad Folker's 233-pound grand champion and \$4 for Duane Swanger's 214-pound reserve.

Total receipts for the hog sale came to \$13,100, for an average of 81 cents per pound, not counting champions. Overall, the livestock sale took in \$20,975.

PDA To Study Farmland Loss

Agriculture has selected Bucks County as one of three counties for "Agricultural Land Data to manage the project. an Collection" study. The purpose of the study is to track the conversion of farmland to other land uses.

DOYLESTOWN - The Penn- District is responsible for locally sylvania Department of conducting the study, and has contracted Laurel Mueller, a soil scientist for Soil Services Co., Inc.,

Active farmland in 1980 and 1985 are being inventoried through the scanning of aerial photos and field The Bucks County Conservation checks. The percentage change in



After winning last week's county 4-H swine show, Chad Folker did likewise at the Elizabethtown Fair and sold his champion market hog to Dean Ziegler of Hatfield Packing for \$4.20 a pound.

acreage over the 5-year period will be determined for each township in Bucks. The study will generate data for each interested township to closely examine their own trends.

According to Mueller, the three counties were selected by the Department of Agriculture to represent three different types of transition. These counties are: Dauphin, Somerset, and Bucks.

Somerset, a very rural county, is presumed to be gaining in agricultural land, following mine reclamation. Dauphin's farmland losses are concentrated around Harrisburg. Bucks County, having the strongest development pressures, is expected to show the fastest and most wide-spread rate of farmland loss.

Cheryl Johnson of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in Harrisburg is statewide coordinator of the project. According to Johnson, the project is a pilot study to develop methods of regularly inventorying and monitoring farmland throughout the state.

Lisa Ishimuro, the aerial photo interpreter for the Bucks study, notes, "Even the most recently flown aerial photos of 1985 cannot keep pace with the rapid rate of change in the landscape. The rate of farmland loss is alarming."

Laurel Mueller, often responsible for evaluating soil suitability for developers, states, "Soils that pass the tests for septic system permits, or that are otherwise legally buildable, are deep, welldrained, and on gentle slopes. Prime farmland is what fits the bill. What's left are the floodplains, wetlands, mountainsides, and boulderfields."



Doug Musser (at halter) sold his Elizabethtown Fair champion FFA steer to Frank Groff, Groff's Meats, for \$1.07 a pound

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