

4-H Livestock Sale Records Set At Maryland State Fair

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Better times are coming!

Late summer rains and cooler temperatures are slowly dissipating the effects of Maryland's worst drought in a century. So livestock exhibitors generally were in a good mood this year during the Maryland State Fair in Timonium.

Their optimism was helped along by spirited bidding in connection with the annual state fair 4-H and FFA livestock sale Aug. 27.

Prodded by auctioneers, ring men and crowd applause, a wide range of private and commercial buyers helped set new state fair record high prices for the grand champion and reserve champion animals in both the market hog and market lamb categories.

Record high average prices also were paid in all three major livestock categories - swine, sheep and beef cattle. However, prices for the top two animals in the latter category were far below the records established in 1984.

Only dairy steers lagged behind price levels of recent years for both sale average and grand champion animal.

In the market hog sale, Chris Mullinix, 11, of Florence sold his

230-pound grand champion for \$8.50 per pound - a new state fair record. The Yorkshire-Hampshire crossbred gilt was purchased by the Hatfield Packing Co. of Hatfield, Pa. It had been bred by Franklin E. Feeser of Taneytown, a well-known Carroll County pork producer.

Hatfield purchased a total of six market hogs in the state fair 4-H and FFA sale, including a 245-pound gilt exhibited by Vicki Reed, 16, of Longridge, the reigning Maryland pork queen. Hatfield paid \$3 per pound for Vicki's pig. The Pennsylvania packer also purchased 37 FFA and 4-H market hogs brought to the state fair but not included in the auction sale.

Another Howard County exhibitor, Timothy Clark, 12, of Poplar Springs, had the reserve champion 4-H and FFA market hog. The 250-pound Yorkshire-Hampshire crossbred gilt brought \$5 per pound from Ronald H. Shook of Dorrs Corner, an Anne Arundel County drywall and plaster contractor.

Shook purchased a total of eight market hogs during the 4-H and FFA livestock sale, as well as seven market lambs and the grand champion dairy steer. A former North Carolina farm boy, he owns

a small farm adjoining the Severn Run environmental area in north central Anne Arundel County.

Average price for 28 market hogs in the 4-H and FFA livestock sale was \$1.69 per pound - a new state fair record. This average does not include prices paid for the grand and reserve champion animals.

For the third time in four years, Gregory N. Hevner, 17, of Johnsville exhibited the grand champion 4-H and FFA market lamb at the Maryland State Fair. This year, his 115-pound purebred Suffolk wether sold for \$12.50 per pound - setting a new state fair record. The buyer was Ronald H. Shook of Dorrs Corner.

Greg had established the previous state fair record price for market lambs with a 120-pound Suffolk wether in 1984. That lamb went for \$10 per pound to Giant Food, Inc.

Another Frederick County resident, Robert O. Dinsmore, 11, of Broad Run exhibited the reserve champion lamb for the second consecutive year. The 125-pound wether went for \$10 per pound to Deggeller Attractions, the state fair midway concessionaire for several years. Deggeller donated the lamb to the Maryland 4-H Club Foundation for resale at prevailing market prices.

The champion and reserve champion pairs of market lambs were not sold in the auction sale. They were exhibited by two Howard County brothers - Eric J. Widmaier, 13, and James C.

Widmaier, 16, both of Florence.

Average price for 23 market lambs in the 4-H and FFA livestock sale was \$1.71 per pound, a new state fair record. This average does not include prices paid for the grand and reserve champion animals.

Frederick County 4-H and FFA members now have exhibited the grand champion lamb at the Maryland State Fair every year since 1978 and the reserve champion lamb every year 1981.

For the first time in six years, the grand champion 4-H and FFA beef steer was not shown by a Howard County exhibitor. But it was close. The 1986 champion steer belonged to Melissa Harrison, 11, a Carroll County 4-H member who lives near Woodbine, just a short distance north of the Howard County line.

Melissa sold her 1,300-pound Angus-Chianina-Simmental crossbred for \$2 per pound to Thompson's Food Market of Maryland Line. The animal previously had been named grand champion beef steer in the Wills 4-H and FFA spring fair May 17 at Gaithersburg.

Howard County did claim the reserve champion beef steer at the Fair for the seventh consecutive year. The 1986 honor went to Jennifer Turner, 13, of Daisy. Her 1,290-pound Angus-Chianina crossbred brought \$1.30 per pound from Graul's Super Thrift of Hereford.

Jennifer's brother, Gene Turner, 15, exhibited the champion Angus

steer in 4-H and FFA competition this year at the state fair. The 1,270-pound animal brought \$1 per pound from R. H. Mullinix and Son of Lisbon.

Average price for 16 beef steers in the 4-H and FFA livestock sale was \$1.03 per pound, a new state fair record. This average does not include prices paid for the grand and reserve champion animals.

Only the champion and reserve champion dairy steers were sold in this year's state fair 4-H and FFA livestock sale. Both were Holsteins.

William L. Swift III, 17, of Sheppard exhibited the champion dairy steer for the third time in four years. Another Baltimore County resident, Mark Price, 19, of Hampstead, had the reserve champion dairy steer. Mark, however, is a Carroll County 4-H member.

Bill sold his 1,250-pound champion for 65 cents per pound to Ronald H. Shook of Dorrs Corner. Mark's 990-pound reserve champion steer was purchased by his father, John Price, for 60 cents per pound.

Bill Swift was high individual in both oral reasons and overall breed competition during the national 4-H dairy cattle judging contest last fall at Madison, Wis. And he was a member of Maryland's national champion 4-H dairy cattle judging team which participated on June 18 in international competition during the Royal Highland livestock show near Edinburgh, Scotland.

Kewanee To Expand Tillage Line

KEWANEE, Ill. — Kewanee Farm Equipment Company will begin the manufacturing and North American marketing of an expanded line of tillage tools for tractors over 40 horsepower, company officials recently announced.

Some of the line, including disk harrows and coulter chisels, was previously built by Kewanee's sister company, Bush Hog of Selma, Alabama. Kewanee's current product line includes tandem and offset disks, cultivators, coulter chisels, mulchers, rear blades and grain augers.

Within the last three years, Kewanee has increased sales, lowered its break-even point, and posted profits despite decreases in sales in the tillage industry. Kewanee, which in 1912 was

founded to sell hangers to dry corn to be saved for seed, was purchased by Allied Products Corporation in 1983. In addition, Allied owns Bush Hog, White Farm Equipment, New Idea, and Lilliston.

According to Lamont Webster, Kewanee sales manager, the consolidation of the tillage line improves the corporation's ability to supply quality tools at lower prices. He said, "Kewanee dealers and customers can expect more choices of competitively priced tools because the company will be producing at a higher, more economical production level."

Officials at Kewanee said that the consolidation of marketing and promotion resources will also improve the efficiency of the corporation's sales and merchandising programs.

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