

Hog Producers Appreciate Efforts Of Veterinarians

SCHAUMBURG, IL — Ninety-two percent of the hog producers surveyed by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) believe their veterinarians are good communicators and 95% say local veterinarians' services are beneficial to their operations.

These survey results are contained in a 200-page report titled U.S. Market for Food Animal Veterinary Medical Services published by the AVMA.

More than 77% of the producers indicate that their local veterinarian was very important to their operation for the diagnosis and treatment of sick or injured animals. More than 45% said veterinarians were very important for required regulatory testing, purchases of animal vaccines and medications/antibiotics, and information on herd health management and reproductive problems. Only 12% believe veterinarians are very important for feed/nutrition information.

According to economist, J. Karl Wise, PhD, hog producers believe veterinarians are good at explaining what they know to producers, and are also good at listening to producers' problems.

Producers who feel they have good communication with their veterinarians tend to have lower veterinary expenditures.

"The findings suggest that producers perceive themselves as learning from veterinarians and believe they are becoming more knowledgeable relative to veterinarians," Dr. Wise said.

Hog producers perceive veterinarians as strong in their knowledge of diagnosis, treatment, and reproduction/breeding relative to themselves and other suppliers of animal health information.

Regarding animal herd/management and feed/nutrition, veterinarians are perceived to possess about the same level of knowledge as the producer.

Dr. Wise reports that 57% of all hog producers used a veterinarian

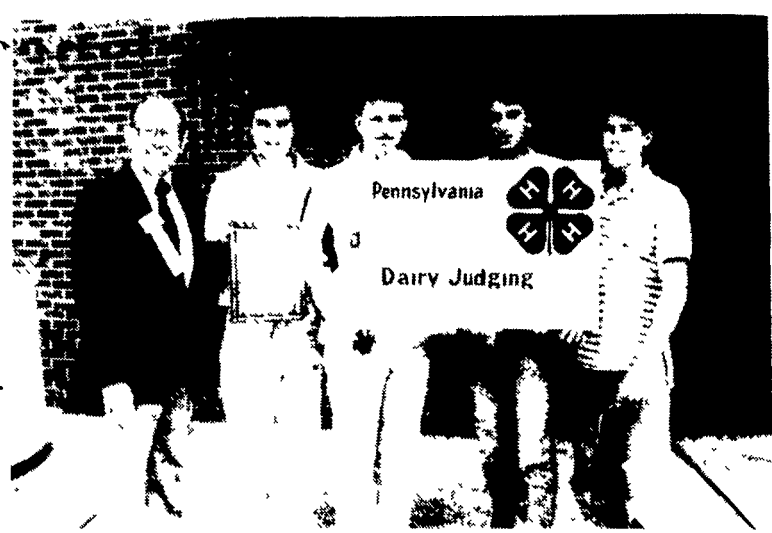
in 1985. They had an annual expenditure of \$524 per producer for a total of \$98 million.

In terms of producers' overall level of satisfaction with veterinarians, 57% are very satisfied and 39% are somewhat satisfied.

Lancaster County Champion Judges



Lancaster County 4-H club members named state champions in the Dairy Judging contest during the annual Penn State 4-H Week are, from left, Robert Barley, Conestoga; Thomas Arrowsmith, Peach Bottom; Thomas Wiker, Holtwood; and Thomas Barley, Conestoga. With them is Dr. B. Alan Snider, 4-H/Youth Director at Penn State.



During the annual Penn State 4-H week, four Lancaster County 4-H Club members were named State Champions in the Jr. Livestock Judging Contest. They are, from left, Diane Musser, Elizabethtown; Anita Meck, Willow Street; Arlisa Snavelly, Lancaster; Doug Musser, Elizabethtown; and Chet Hughes, Lancaster Extension Livestock Agent. With them is Dr. B. Alan Snider, 4-H/Youth Director at Penn State.



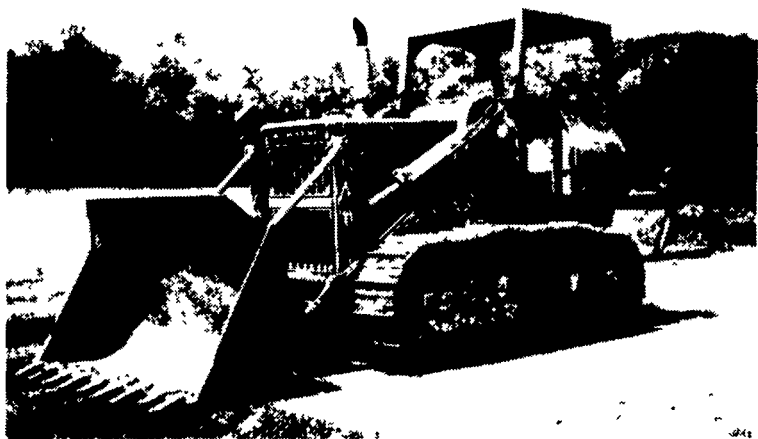
Four Lancaster County 4-H members were named State Champions in the Senior Livestock Judging Contest during the annual Penn State 4-H Week held recently at Penn State University. They are, from left, Emily Weaver, Ephrata; Tricia Musser, Elizabethtown; Ellen Lewis, Mount Joy; Joe Garber, Marietta, and Chet Hughes, Lancaster Extension Livestock Agent. With them is Dr. B. Alan Snider, 4-H/Youth Director at Penn State.

The Senior Team will now represent Pennsylvania at five Interstate competitions including the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, KY in November.



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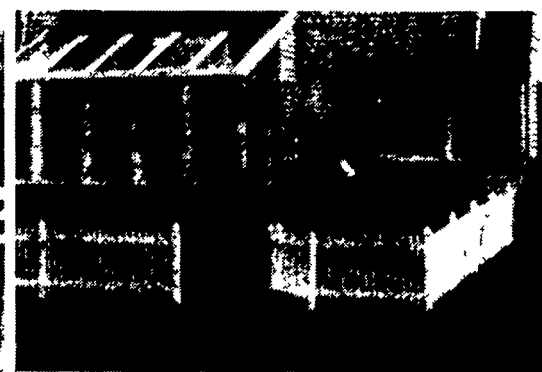
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