

## Genetic Evaluation Confirms Pork Is Lean And Low In Cholesterol

DES MOINES, IOWA — An evaluation of the meat produced by 800 market hogs has shown pork to be far leaner and lower in cholesterol than consumers may believe, according to an industry spokesman.

Results of the "Pork Challenge," an evaluation of the production efficiency and product quality of market hogs as determined by the genetics of eight major swine breeds, a popular cross and four hybrid breeding companies, were recently released. The announcement was made at the opening of the World Pork Expo on Sunday, June 12 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines.

"The lean portion of our modern trimmed product has a nutrient value very similar to a breast of chicken," said David Meeker, Ph.D., Director of Research and Education for the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC).

Following a study of production efficiency at a research station in New Ulm, Minnesota, a center cut pork chop was taken from each carcass and evaluated at Iowa State University.

"The hogs on test were a good general representation of what's being produced out in the country," Meeker said. "Our request for participants brought in a wide range of breed types and gave us an excellent sample to evaluate."

Terry Nickel, a pork producer from Arizona and a 1988 Pork All American, topped the test with a group of Hampshire-sired crossbred pigs.

"Results show the chops had an average of 2.5 percent fat content and contained 58.3 milligrams of cholesterol per 100 grams of meat," Meeker stated. "Compare those figures to the most recent USDA figures -- 7 percent fat and 63 milligrams of cholesterol in

1983 -- and you can see the progress pork has made." The figures Meeker quoted are from USDA Handbook 8-10, and are based on raw, separable lean, center loin cuts.

The test was conducted by the National Pork Producers Council in cooperation with the Minnesota Pork Producers Association and Iowa State University. "Pork Challenge" was made possible with financial assistance from Pitman-Moore, Inc.

NPPC developed the test to assemble performance data on various sire breeds and hybrids, which pork producers use to improve the product obtained from their breeding programs. With information to make selected genetic changes, pork producers can achieve both higher production efficiency and product quality, according to Meeker.

Production benchmarks, such as

average daily gain and feed efficiency, and carcass quality traits, such as backfat and loin muscle area, entered into the final analysis of the hogs, Meeker said.

The hogs' overall performance was measured with a formula developed by Iowa State University to determine "predicted lean efficiency," or the pounds of feed required to produce a pound of lean meat.

"There is still room for improvement in producing leaner hogs, but we must keep in mind that these changes cannot negate pork's other qualities or profitability on the farm," Meeker said. He added that tests like this provide answers to genetic questions that can help the industry become even better at producing a high quality product for consumers.

"These results are a good beginning toward establishing a useful data-base of genetic and perfor-

mance information the pork producers can use," said Meeker. "But we need a few more years of data to ensure that our information on genetic differences is solid." Plans already are underway to repeat the test in 1989.

Nearly 58,000 pork producers, educators, business leaders and international visitors had the opportunity to review the results during Expo.

Contact NPPC for a complete booklet on the 1987-88 NPPC Genetic Evaluation results.

## Franklin County Shepherds

The Franklin County 4-H Shepherds are applying the knowledge learned in the last four months to raise choice market lambs.

Weigh-in and ear tagging of market lambs was done on May 24 at the Boyd farm.

A family picnic included feed and hay judging experience for members and parents by Fred Dillner at the Keener farm on June 26.

On July 15 all lambs were removed from pasture to confinement until roundup time in September.

Members took part in a farm tour on August 2.

The next meeting will be a fitting and showing clinic on August 16.

## The Pennsylvania 25th ALL-AMERICAN DAIRY SHOW



September 26-30, 1988

## The Six Breed Show Of All Americans

### Schedule of Shows, Sales and Contests

Saturday, September 24	1:30 p.m. - Pennsylvania Jersey State Sale, Small Arena
6:30 p.m. - Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Pageant, Marriott Inn	2:00 p.m. - Dairy Shrine Annual Meeting, Pennsylvania Room, Second Concourse, Large Arena
Sunday through Friday - September 25 through 30	5:30 p.m. - Banquet Reception, Sheraton Harrisburg East
9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Country Craft Show, Lower Concourse, Large Arena	6:30 p.m. - All-American 25th Anniversary Recognition and Dairy Shrine Awards Banquet, Sheraton-Harrisburg East
Monday, September 26	Thursday, September 29
8:00 a.m. - Invitational Youth Dairy Judging Contest (4-H, FFA, and Collegiate) Small Arena	9:00 a.m. - Mid-Atlantic Regional Jersey Show
8:00 a.m. - Pennsylvania Junior Dairy Show	12:00 noon - Eastern National Holstein Show (dry cow classes, calf classes and heifer classes in order) Breeders Majority Annual Meeting, Pennsylvania Room, Second Concourse, Large Arena (immediate following Holstein Show)
1:30 p.m. - Invitational Milking Shorthorn Sale, Small Arena	5:00 p.m. - Gala Anniversary Party and Herdsmen's Buffet - Small Arena
7:00 p.m. - Judging Contest Awards Banquet, Sheraton Harrisburg East	7:00 p.m. - All-American Holstein Sale
7:00 p.m. - Invitational Brown Swiss Sale Small Arena	Friday, September 30
7:00 p.m. - Eastern National Milking Shorthorn Junior Show	9:00 a.m. - Eastern National Holstein Show (milking and group classes) Supreme Champion (selection immediately following Holstein champion class) Cattle release following selection of Supreme Champion (Holsteins at the end of the Holstein Show)
Tuesday, September 27	
9:00 a.m. - Eastern National Brown Swiss Show	
9:00 a.m. - Eastern National Milking Shorthorn Show	
10:00 a.m. - Junior Dairyman Contest, Second Floor, Main Building	
10:00 a.m. - Pennsylvania 4-H and FFA Dairy Judging Forum, Small Arena	
1:30 p.m. - Pennsylvania Elite Ayrshire Sale, Small Arena	
Wednesday - September 28	
9:00 a.m. - National Guernsey Show	
9:00 a.m. - PAA Ayrshire Show	
11:30 a.m. - 1988 Jersey Harvest Futurity, Small Arena	

**Entries Close: August 26 and September 8, 1988**

**For Information, Premium List, and Entry Blanks Contact:**

**Charles A. Ille, Manager**

**Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show**

Farm Show Complex

2301 N. Cameron Street

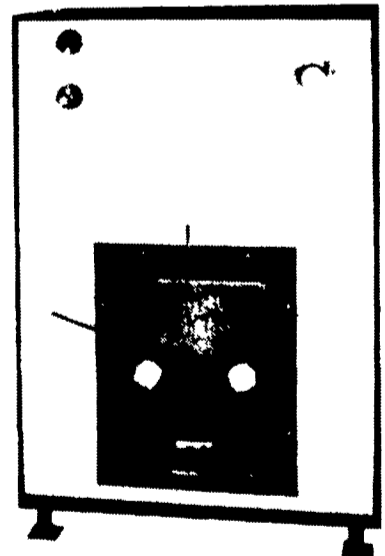
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