Pork Bowl Winners

For the third year in a row, Lebanon County's 4-H Pork Bowl team has captured the Pennsylvania Keystone Pork Bowl crown.

Daniel Atkins, 13, of Lebanon; Jay Kleinfelter, 16, of Myerstown; and Darren, 14, and Daryl, 17, Grumbine of Myerstown traveled to the Penn Harris Convention Center last month to compete in the fourth annual Keystone Pork Bowl, a hog-knowledge quiz, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Association and Penn State Cooperative Extension. All of the Lebanon team members belong to the county's swine club and manage their own swine breeding and feeding operations.

The Pork Bowl, held in conjunction with the association's annual trade show, the Keystone Pork Congress, featured competition from 12 4-H and FFA teams from across the state.

Coming in second place was the 4-H team from Chester County. Team members were Brian Beam and Chris and Norman Gay. Thirdplace honors went to 4-H'ers from Lehigh County: Steven Wessnes, Daniel Hartman, Travis Fink, and Wendy Lazarus.

According to Ken Winebark, county agricultural agent for Penn State extension and chairman of the event, the Lebanon County team came out of the gate running, posting a decisive 145-50 win over Big Springs FFA.

Teams were awarded points based on correctly answered questions in three phases. In all there were about 400 to 450 questions on the following swine topics: health, nutrition, housing and environment, pork quality, management, reproduction, judging, current events, and commodity prices. Prior to the contest those teams accepted for competition were sent a sheet with 250 base questions from which to study.

In the first round of questioning, each team member is asked a queestion. A second round of questions is directed at the team for discussion with the team captains answering the question. In the third round, the speed round, buzzers are used to determine who wins the opportunity to respond to toss-up questions. Here knowledge and quickness must work together. All questions are worth 10 points with five points deducted for incorrect responses in the third round.

Lebanon's team progressed through the semi-final round by soundly defeating the Indiana County 4-H team by 180-90. This win set up a rematch of last year's championship pairing with Chester County. With the pressure now at full force for the rematch, Lebanon County's 4-H'ers left little doubt in the minds of the Chester County players as to who the winners were as they trounced the Chester County team 125 to 20.

Only 12 of the 17 teams that wished to compete were selected due to time constraints. The teams were chosen according to the postmark date of their entry form. Teams competing in addition to those already mentioned were Greenwood FFA, York County 4-H, West Snyder FFA, Cumberland Valley FFA, James Buchanan FFA, Manheim FFA, and Chambersburg FFA.

All those participating in the competition extend their thanks to Hatfield Quality Meats for its financial support of the contest.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Keystone Pork Congress, contact Ken Winebark at the Lebanon County Cooperative Extension office, 400 S. 8th St., Lebanon, PA 17042; 717/274-2801, extension 350.



Members of the second-place team, which was from Chester County, were, from left, back row: Norman Gay, Chris Gay; front row: Brian Beam, Titus Beam.



Representing Lehigh County at the Pennsylvania Pork Bowl were, from left, back row: Steven Wessner, Daniei Hartman, Travis Fink; front row: Wendy Lazarus, Rhonda Lazarus. The Lehigh County 4-H team placed third.



For the second year in a row, this group of youths have won top honors at the Pennsylvania Pork Bowl. They represent the third consecutive Lebanon County team that has won the contest. They are, from left, front row: Darren Grumbine and Jay Kleinfelter; back row: Daryl Grumbine and Danny Atkins.



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