

DeKalb-Swine Breeders To Launch Chinese Swine Research Program

DEKALB, IL. — DEKALB Swine Breeders, Inc. recently announced a major expansion of its swine genetic research program, using Chinese swine semen just released for importation this week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

"The semen arrived at the company's DeKalb, Ill., headquarters on Thursday, July 13, after being released from the USDA's quarantine facility near Newburgh, N.Y.," said Roy Poage, president of DeKalb Swine Breeders, Inc.

"We are extremely pleased to be the first to import Chinese germplasm into the United States," Poage said. "Although it may take as long as five to ten years to incorporate favorable Chinese swine traits into our research program, we think the potential benefits to the U.S. pork industry and consumers are enormous."

"Chinese swine are noted for their large litters, faster growth to puberty and resistance to disease organisms like trichina and E. Coli bacteria," Poage said.

"USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) released the swine

semen after completing over five months of testing on donor animals and semen. The semen underwent two months of testing at a USDA lab in Plum Island, N.Y. The donor animals as well as the semen had to test negative to a long list of diseases before the USDA would allow importation of the semen," Poage said.

"The final rule that allowed the importation of the swine semen was published in the July 11, 1989, Federal Register," Poage said.

"The importation rule, developed by APHIS, was first published March 28, and the comment period was extended through June 20. The USDA conducted a public hearing in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on June 6 to receive comments on proposed changes to the APHIS proposal, but no changes were made in the final version," Poage said.

"We are delighted to have cleared all the hurdles so that now we can begin this much-awaited expansion of our research program," Poage said. "Our goal is to help U.S. pork producers raise larger litters and pigs that are more resistant to disease, so that ulti-

mately, the costs of production can be reduced. At the same time, U.S. consumers can benefit in purchasing pork with greater value."

"For the Chinese swine strain that DeKalb has imported, the average number of pigs weaned per litter is 12 to 14," Poage said, "a big improvement over the U.S. average litter size weaned of 7.8."

DeKalb's interest in studying the production efficiency and disease resistance of Chinese pigs began in 1978 after a DeKalb director discovered their potential while on a trip to China.

In 1982, DeKalb asked the USDA for permission to import

live animals, but the company was refused because no appropriate protocol had been established with the People's Republic of China. In 1986, the company began focusing its efforts on importing semen because of its higher safety and lower cost factors. DeKalb signed an agreement in June 1988 with the China National Animal Breeding Stock Import and Export Corporation to import semen to the United States.

DeKalb has an extensive swine genetic research program, conducted at four separate locations near DeKalb, IL., and at one location near Lubbock, Texas. The

company's foundation farms are located near Plains, Kansas, and there are 11 genetic evaluation stations in key hog producing areas of the United States, where producers can purchase breeding stock for their hog operations.

DeKalb Swine Breeders, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of DeKalb Genetics Corporation of DeKalb, IL., is the leading producer of hybrid swine breeding stock in the United States. It is the largest American-owned company exporting swine breeding stock to Japan, China, Canada, Thailand, and several South American countries.

Delaware Safe Farm Family Named

NEWARK, DE. — G. Wallace "Pat" and Grace Caulk were chosen as recipients of the Delaware Safe Farm Award, sponsored by Delaware Cooperative Extension and the Delaware Safety Council.

Ron Jester, University of Delaware Extension safety specialist says, "Each state is asked to consider a farm that exemplifies a safe operation. We're very pleased with this year's selection."

Pat is the current state director of the Farmer's Home Administration and a former state sec-

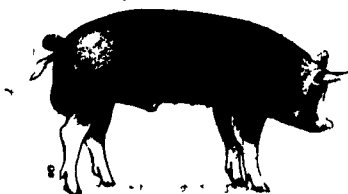
retary of agriculture. Grace has served on Delaware's Safety Advisory Committee. They currently operate a dairy farm near Woodside.

The couple was ultimately chosen by the Pennsylvania Farmer newspaper to receive the Mid-Atlantic Safe Farm Award. This is the third year that the newspaper has sponsored the award program.

"The Caulks have impressed me with the priority they assign to safety," Jester says. "They put safety into practice."



This mature Melshan sow is one of the pigs DeKalb Swine Breeders has imported from China for genetics research.



Northern Lebanon

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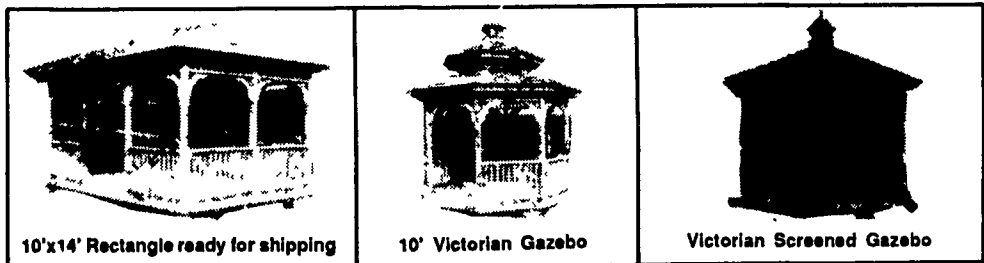
- Junior Champion
Michael Meliot & Denise Glick
Reserve Junior Champion
Ammon Pelfer
Grand Champion
David Lentz
Reserve Grand Champion
Michael Meliot
Breeder-Exhibitor
- 1. David Lentz, 2. Sherry Donmoyer, County Groups
- 1. Lebanon, 2. Lancaster, 3. Berks.
GUERNSEY
Intermediate Calf
- 1. Steven Wagner, Junior Yearling
- 1. Steven Wagner, Junior Champion
Steven Wagner
Reserve Junior Champion
Steven Wagner
Grand Champion
Steven Wagner
Reserve Grand Champion
Steven Wagner
Breeder-Exhibitor
Steven Wagner
JERSEY
Junior Calf
- 1. Steve Unangst, 2. Jennifer Ulrich, 3. Tiffany Yeager, Intermediate Calf
- 1. Beth Ulrich, Senior Calf
- 1. Steven Wagner, 2. Thomas Arrowsmith, 3. Emily Zug, Junior Yearling
- 1. Jennifer Ulrich, Intermediate Yearling
- 1. Beth Ulrich, Dry Br. 2-Year-Old
- 1. Tiffany Yeager, Junior 2-Year-Old

- 1. Tiffany Yeager, 4-Year-Old
- 1. Thomas Arrowsmith, 5-Years & Over
- 1. Thomas Arrowsmith, Junior Champion
Steven Wagner
Reserve Junior Champion
Thomas Arrowsmith
Grand Champion
Tiffany Yeager
Reserve Grand Champion
Thomas Arrowsmith
County Groups
Lancaster
Breeder-Exhibitor
Tiffany Yeager
Ayrshire
Summer Yearling
- 1. Laura Harding, Intermediate Yearling
- 1. Laura Harding, Junior 2-Year-Old
- 1. Dennis W. Gerhart, 2. Christopher Harding, Senior 2-Year-Old
- 1. Eugene Kreitzer, 2. Ronald Groff, 3-Year-Old
- 1. Laura Harding, Br. 2-Year-Old & Over Dry Cow
- 1. Christopher Harding, Junior Champion
Laura Harding
Reserve Junior Champion
Laura Harding
Grand Champion
Eugene Kreitzer
Reserve Grand Champion
Laura Harding
County Group
- 1. Lebanon, Breeder-Exhibitor
- 1. Laura Harding, FFA Chapter Groups
- 1. Northern Lebanon, 2. Solanco, 3. Annville.

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