

Pork Prose

(Continued from Page D4)

the breeder.

Evaluate the semen? You can. But the best and final test is whether the boar can breed and settle sows.

What to pay for a boar? The most important thing to remember is that the boar can take your herd forward or backward. For example, if you buy a boar that's too fat and he adds .1 inch of 10th rib fat to your market hogs, he's costing you at least a dollar a head for every hog you sell in the Hatfield grading program. If he improves the feed/gain ratio by .1 pound, he saving you at least \$1.25 per head for each of his offspring on the finishing floor. So how much is the boar

worth? That depends on how many sows you have, how well the boar works—and most importantly, whether or not he improves your genetic base.

SUMMARY

•1. Getting the boar to breeding age is different than raising a market hog to 230 pounds. The boar needs a higher level of protein and minerals. He needs to be raised under conditions that will permit a sound evaluation of his ability to withstand concrete and confinement conditions. And his performance records need to be documented. That helps the seedstock producer market the boar. And it helps the commercial producer understand what he's buying.

•2. When the newly purchased boar arrives at the commercial operation, he should be retested for brucellosis and PRV, and he should be test-mated. But you should keep him in isolation for at least 30 to 45 days.

•3. When weaning sows as a group, keep at least one boar for every two to three sows. Handmating is ideal. Penmating can work, provided boars are rotated often when sows are in heat.

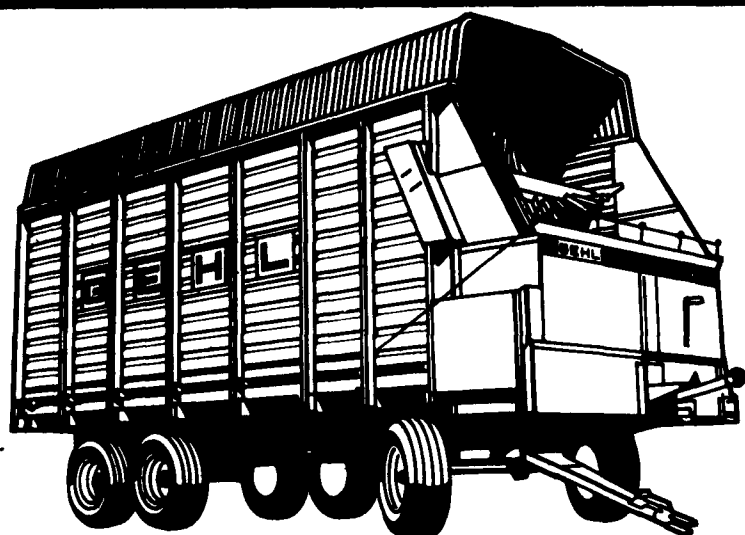
•4. Remember that a cheap boar can cost you thousands in lost profit if he adds backfat, reduces feed efficiency or slows the growth rate in your market hogs.

Pennsylvania Angus Association Holds Field Day



During a recent field day, Pennsylvania Angus Association junior members had participated in a showmanship contest. Tim Livingston, left, was an award sponsor and Tom Bross, right, hosted the event. The winners were, from left, Ed Livingston, Cathy Shive, Jennifer Calderazzo, and Casey High.

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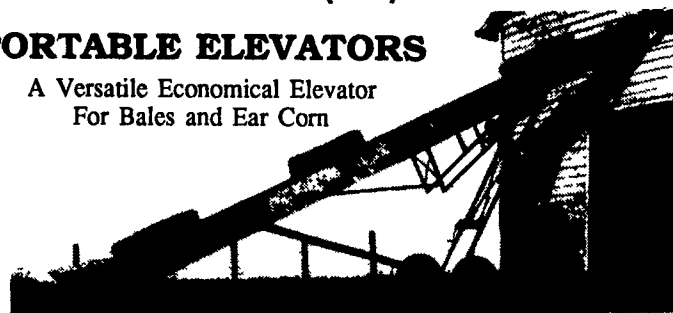
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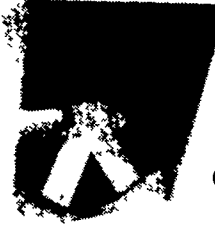


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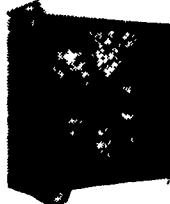


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