

## York County 4-H's Hold Sheep, Swine Roundup

THOMASVILLE (York Co.) — The York County 4-H sheep & swine club members held their annual combined Roundup last month at Weikert's Livestock Buying Station near Thomasville.

During the show, the members and spectators saw the 130-pound lamb of Tabitha Ebersole, York, winning the grand champion honors. She also won reserve grand champion honors with another 130-pound lamb. This was her first year showing as a 4-H lamb club member.

In the swine judging division, the 240-pound market pig of Jimmy Neutzel of Felton was selected grand champion and the 235-pound market pig of Kim Frantz of Seven Valleys was named reserve grand champion.

During the sale the champion market lamb was purchased by Waltemyers Sales & Service of Red Lion, and the Reserve Grand Champion was purchased by Hummels Sausage of Glen Rock. The members sold a total of 27 lambs for an average price of \$94.59 per hundred weight with the champions and \$89.56 per hundred weight without the champions. The average weight of

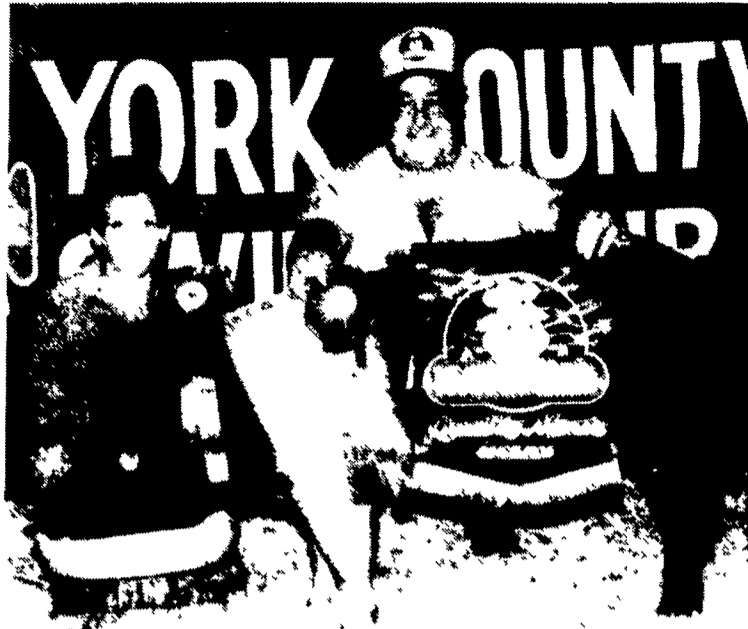


At the halter of the grand champion market lamb is Tabitha Ebersole of York. James and Miriam Waltemyer of Waltemyer's Sales & Service of Red Lion purchased the lamb.

the market lambs was 110.56 pounds with champions and 119.00 pounds without champions.

The market swine sale followed right after the lambs with the champion being sold to Hatfield Quality Meats, and the reserve grand champion being sold again

to Hummels Sausage of Glen Rock. The 4-H Swine members offered a total of 56 head of market pigs for an average of \$77.68 per hundred weight with champions and \$70.85 per hundred weight without champions. The average weight was 229.02 pounds with champions and



Showing the grand champion market pig at the York County 4-H Roundup was Jimmy Neutzel of Felton. His champion was purchased by Hatfield Quality Meats, represented by Ezra Good.

228.70 pounds without champions.

Volume buyers for the evening sale were Hatfield Quality Meats; Weikert's Livestock Buying Station, York; Leidy's Inc., New Freedom; Agway Inc., York;

Susan Dutrey, Dallastown; Kevin & D.C. Sunday, York; D.R. Kern Plumbing & Heating, York; Godfrey Bros., York; James Parlett, Airville; Barry Eberly, Dallastown and Farmers Bank of Hanover, Hanover.

### Pennsylvania Girl Wins American Angus Association Scholarship

ST. JOSEPH, MO — Lori Cash of Centre Hall received a \$1,200 scholarship from the American Angus Auxiliary for being the nation's top female Junior Angus Association member. A scholarship was awarded the top five boys and girls with a total of \$7,200 being presented.

A record number of youth, 33 from 20 states, applied for the scholarship money, reported Mrs. Ardyce O'Neill of Logan, Iowa, the scholarship chairperson. The first-place boy and girl received \$1,200; \$900 was presented to the second-place girl and boy; the third-place finishers received \$700; the fourth-place finalists were awarded \$500; and \$300 went to the fifth-place boy and girl.

In addition to scholarships, the five female finalists are eligible to compete for the Miss American Angus title for 1990 at the American Angus Association annual meeting held in November at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Ky.

The other female recipients were Jean Macauley, Oregon, Ill., second place; Suzannah Rowland, Gamaliel, Ky., third place; Lori



Lori Cash

Franklin, Snohomish, Wash., fourth place; and Dee Dee Lawson, Cushing, Okla., fifth place. The young men receiving scholarships are Jason Carrico, Redfield, Iowa, first place; Wade Baxter, Osawatome, Kans., second place; Matthew Titus, Oronoco, Minn., third place; Mark Brandenberger,

Clifton, Texas, fourth place; Tracy Piepho, Howell, Mich., fifth place.

A member of the American Angus Association and the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association, Cash is the 18-year-old daughter of Erskine and Willie Cash. She has been involved with her state junior Angus group for nine years and has held several offices. Cash served as show manager for the 1989 Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, which was hosted by the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association.

At the 1989 National Junior Angus showmanship contest, Cash won the coveted top showman title. In addition, she has received several achievement awards including outstanding Pennsylvania Junior Angus girl. Her family was named the Pennsylvania Angus family of the year. Recently, Cash was elected to the National Junior Angus Association Board of Directors.

Cash is pursuing a career in communications at Penn State. She plans on staying involved with Angus and promoting youth programs, as they have been an important part of her life.

### Fish Producing Conference Scheduled

READING (Berks Co.) — Penn State Cooperative Extension announces its first conference for those interested in raising fish commercially, either indoors in tanks or outside in ponds and raceways. The conference is set for Wednesday, November 15, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Berks Ag Center.

The conference includes speakers from USDA, area fish farms, the University of Maryland, state agencies, the new state aquaculture association, and a major supermarket chain. The conference cost is \$15, which includes a lunch buffet of fish from area farms, the trade shows of suppliers, handouts, and an optional tour of a fish operation at the end of the conference.

"We've found the experts and producers who know the area and

climate, and who can give interested growers the basics of how to make a profit raising freshwater fish," said Jeff Patton, Extension agent-marketing and a conference organizer. "Our goal is to help producers make sound, informed decisions on whether to and how to start up in this farm enterprise."

Although Pennsylvania doesn't enjoy the climate that has fostered the catfish industry of southern states, there are other species and

### Lehigh County Extension Office Moved

Lehigh County's Penn State Cooperative Extension office has moved to a new location. The office is in the newly built Lehigh County Agricultural Center at 4184 Dorney Park Rd. in South Whitehall Township.

Also housed in the Ag Center will be the Lehigh County Soil

methods that show promise in the mid-Atlantic region. This is significant because area consumers have increased fish consumption at a steady pace, and fish imports represent the U.S.'s third largest trade deficit category.

Contact the Cambria County Extension, 814/472-7986 extension 392, office for the registration brochure or call Jeff Patton, Extension agent in Lehigh County for more information. His number is 215/820-3085.

Conservation Service, Lehigh County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, and Lehigh County Conservation District.

The Extension office phone number is 215/391-9840.

### Pork Prose

by  
Kenneth B. Kephart

Penn State Extension Swine Specialist



#### ALTERING THE NURSING PATTERN

People have spent a lot of time looking at the mechanics of lactation. All the effort is based on the notion that pork producers would like to wean healthier and heavier pigs, while getting sows into heat sooner. Of course the studies, thoughts and observations take on all shapes and sizes. But there is one question that floats to the surface in most cases—what can we change in the normal nursing pattern to improve productivity?

One of the proven procedures on this list that nearly every pork producer uses is cross fostering.

And a similar practice utilized by some of the larger units is that of over-farrowing and litter equalization. In this case, more sows are farrowed than there are crates available. Some sows are weaned just a few days after farrowing, while litter size in the remaining sows is equalized at 12 or so pigs.

But a few other techniques have been beat around by researchers for the last 10 years or so, and for the most part are not commonly practiced by producers:

1. Split nursing: Pigs are separated from the sow at farrowing time until all pigs are born. Pigs are then sorted and marked into two equal groups—large and small birth weight. The small pigs get first crack at the udder for about a half-hour after which the remaining pigs are put on the sow (along with the small pigs).

2. Limited nursing: In the last week of lactation, pigs are given only limited access to the sow. For example, the litter may be allowed to nurse the sow four times a day during the last seven days of lactation.

3. Split weaning: About one week before the normal weaning

day, the largest pigs are weaned. The smaller pigs, therefore, have seven days of sow's milk without competition from their larger litter mates.

Let's take a look at each of these techniques—why they're done, whether they'll do any good.

#### Split nursing

By allowing the small pigs first access to the udder, they also have a guaranteed shot at the colostrum. This practice has not been researched too heavily. But John Gadd in a past column of the "National Hog Farmer" reported the results of one trial. Sows with split-nursed litters weaned .3 more pigs than those in the control group. That translated into a five-pound increase in litter weight.

The problem with the split nursing routine is that you must be there at farrowing time. With prostaglandins (Lutalyse) daylight farrowing is possible, but it requires accurate breeding dates.

Is this one worth the trouble? If you're going to be there anyway, putting all the pigs in a warm area until the end of farrowing is not such a bad idea. And the reasons for giving the smallest pigs first access to the udder makes sense.

#### Limited nursing

The real incentive for this technique is to get the sow into heat sooner. By reducing the amount of time pigs spend on the udder during the last week of lactation, her reproductive system will be stimulated earlier than normal. There isn't much question that it works.

In a study at the University of Illinois reported in 1981, pigs were given access to the sow only three or four times during the last week of lactation. And researchers demonstrated that limited nursing could bring the sows into heat

(Turn to Page D4)