

Deadline Nears For Entry Into New 4-H Program

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Lancaster Farming Staff
LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — There's a new program for 4-H youth in the seven county southeastern region of Pennsylvania that enables the members to better prepare for real world production goals.

The brainchild of two extension agents in Lebanon and Lancaster counties and a representative of White Oak Mills feed company in Elizabethtown, the program is called the "Southeast Pa. 4-H Market Hog Derby."

The deadline for weighing in animals is Wednesday. Those interested in participating should call their extension agents immediately and set up a time for weighing in their animals.

According to Kenneth Winebark, Lebanon County livestock agent, "It's a derby. It's a race to see which animal can put on the most pounds of lean meat from May until August 21; roughly 75 days, which is a normal production scheme.

"The animals weighed in are the typical feeder pigs which would be

going into a feeder pig operation," Winebark said.

Counties participating include Berks, Chester, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Schuylkill and York. Each current 4-H member can nominate three hogs to be identified and weighed in for evaluation.

Feeder pigs up to 60 pounds will be accepted into the program. The animals are returned to the members farm for feeding and care. One of three will be chosen to compete in the Market Hog Derby.

An entry fee of \$15 per three head is payable at weigh-in. Weights must be certified by the county agent.

Winebark said the program has been designed to mirror, as best as possible, all aspects of real feeder pig production.

The hogs will be evaluated using the same Lean Gain formula devised by the National Pork Producers Council.

Specifically there are three basic variables that will be evaluated:

• **Meat** **Animal Characteristics** — including loin eye muscle, backfat thickness, carcass quality, carcass length and

dressing percentage.

• **Average Daily Gain** on test — will be calculated from weigh-in to weigh-off date, which starts 9 a.m. August 21.

• **Structural Correctness** and design of hog in regards to soundness and function.

"This basically came about to take a look at economical production of our 4-H projects and to take a look at the real world aspects," Winebark said, "to take in not only the growth of the animal, but also the carcass value for the consumer and the overall conformation and structural correctness of the animal.

"It's an attempt to encourage our youth to look beyond just the show ring and striving to have just a champion in a show," Winebark said.

The differences between show competitions are basic.

"It's something similar to what we've doing for a number of years, but seperately," Winebark said. "It's the first time it will all come together. We have had some counties hold rate-of-gain contests and

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South East Pennsylvania 4-H Market Hog Derby

Weigh Off: Wednesday, August 21, 1991
9:00 A.M.

Name _____

Address _____

Breed of Sire _____

Breed of Dam _____

Sex of Hog _____

\$15.00 entry fee is enclosed

\$15.00 entry fee will be paid at weigh in

Mail to: (County Agent for each county)

Northwest Keystone Junior

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This year a livestock judging contest will be held on Saturday, May 25, starting at 1 p.m., followed by the showmanship contest at 5 p.m. In 1991, the showmanship contest will again be divided into three age divisions.

On Sunday, May 26, the steers and breeding classes are judged. As in the past, the 1991 Classic will offer registered steer classes. Cash prizes and trophies will be awarded and a grand and reserve champion steer will be chosen from breeds represented. Crossbred steers will also compete for premiums to be paid in all steer classes, as well as for grand and reserve trophies. A supreme champion steer will then be named, the overall show champion

and a cash jackpot will be paid to this winner.

In the breeding show, premiums will be paid for all classes and trophies will be awarded for grand champion, reserve champion, and bred and owned for each of the breeds as well as for an unrestricted "commercial" class.

Additional information about the 1991 Classic is being prepared for mailing to past participants and breed associations. For other answers to questions about this show, county extension agents will have brochures and entry forms. For more information, contact the Keystone Junior Beef Classic Committee, c/o Bob Calvert, Mercer County Extension Office, P.O. Box 530, Mercer, PA 16137.

Buckhout To Resign

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(PAFC), the organization's primary mission is to organize and promote educational programs and materials about the cooperative way of doing business. This mission is accomplished through the support of the Penn State Cooperative Business Education program.

The longest running PCC program is the Summer Youth Institute. This four-day activity is held annually at the end of June for approximately 100 high school students. It includes workshops designed to better inform the attendees about cooperative business principles, along with other important issues that could include food safety, environmental concerns, listening skills, career opportunities, legislative issues and more! Activities include organizing and running a mini cooperative, touring a nearby cooperative, computer simulation

programs as well as numerous recreational activities. Now in its 31st year, the PCC Summer Youth Institute is designed to help develop tomorrow's leaders.

Other educational programs supported by PCC include a three-day summer conference for young farm leaders, programs for cooperative directors and employees, programs for Extension personnel and for teachers of agriculture.

On a part-time basis, the PCC executive director helps to coordinate and support the above programs, works with the PCC board of directors, acts as a liaison with the Penn State Cooperative Business Education program and represents the organization at numerous functions. The organization's office is located in State College. Interested persons should write to Jay V. Rush, PCC President, 3301 West Market Street, P.O. Box 2427, York, PA 17405.

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