

# Small-Scale Pork Producers

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Also John Gadd, a private hog production consultant from England, who is a regular columnist in "National Hog Farmer" magazine, discussed the "Secrets to Success In The Hog Industry."

Gadd began by comparing European production to United States production and generally concluded that while the United States is far more the economical producer and larger producer, the quality of the average American hog is not as consistent as the European hog.

He said a strict and widely practiced genetic program has increased the genetics of their hogs to a point where the meat production averages are very high and the meat is lean.

Problems associated with their product, however, is that the meat is bland tasting and demand has gone down.

Also, because of the fast weight gains, the European hogs are having leg and structure problems — the meat production is outpacing the growth of the skeletal system.

According to Gadd, European hogs are producing at a rate of 70 pounds in 9½ weeks.

"They grow fast, but the meat is becoming very un-tasty. Our meat is extremely lean, but the taste is poor; therefore, meat consumption is down," he said.

He did offer some advice for the American producer, he said. In order for the smaller producer to compete with the large professional producers, the small producer has to imitate the large producer in business attitudes and in employment.

First, Gadd said, don't econom-

ize on the choice of breeding stock. He also said that producers need to emphasize a genetics proving program similar to theirs, similar to what is currently done with American dairy cattle.

He also said producers need to evaluate their herds and operations for weaknesses and work to improve them.

Also, he said, producers should demand proof of herd health when purchasing an animal before bringing it into the herd.

Gadd said one of the biggest problems the European community faces with hog production is attracting workers to the field.

Kenneth Kephart, Penn State University hog specialist, said that was also a problem here.

"I tell all my classes that I can get them jobs within a week," Kephart said. He said that he frequently gets calls from agribusinesses which are seeking qualified people, but the supply of trained and skilled people is very low.

Gadd said that employee benefits and working conditions must be improved in order to attract more people to the industry. Also the parents of potential workers have to be recruited also.

Kephart said much the same thing, although he talked more about keeping employees and creating attractive and competitive employee positions. He said that he stressed using a reasonable pay scale, keeping down on the repeated long-hour days, and creating an incentive system that provides frequent and justifiable reward.

"If you're going to compete with the big pros, you have to be a

pro yourself," Gadd said.

During the Pork Congress, other programs were being held concurrently.

For the second year in a row, the Lebanon County team placed first in the Keystone Pork Bowl, held Wednesday afternoon. Lebanon County won it easily over second place Indiana County, 215-145. A total of 12 teams competed.

Lebanon team members and coaches were Jon Harnish, Katie Lefever, Scott Nolt, Jason Krall, Brian Kreider, John Risser, and Dan Atkins.

Indiana County members were Lisa Zack, Adrienne Elkin, Tonya Anthony, Beth Elkin, and coach Sue Glass.

Chester County, which placed second last year, dropped to third place this year. Team members included Matt McAllister, Christin



Winners of the public speaking contest ages 8-11 are Mark Parrish, 11, right, first place and Charlie Glass, 11, second place.

Eyrich, Chris Gay, and Norm Gay, with coaches Titus Beam and Nelson Beam.

Another youth contest was publ-

ic speaking, in which 18 members participated.

At the junior public speaking (Turn to Page A36)



Senior winners in the Pennsylvania Pork Producers' Council junior public speaking contest are, from ages 16-19, left to right, Jason Woodling, Troxelville, first; Michael Comman, Carlisle, second; Timothy S. Lehman, Mechanicsburg, third; Jennifer Miller, fourth; and Ginger Kegg, Bedford, fifth. Photo by Andy Andrews.



For the second time in a row, Lebanon County was first place at the Keystone Pork Bowl, winning it easily 215-145 over Indiana County. Front row, from left, Jon Harnish, Katie Lefever, Scott Nolt, and Jason Krall. Back, from left, Brian Kreider, John Risser, and Dan Atkins. Photo by Andy Andrews.



Junior winners in the public speaking contest are, from ages 12-15, left to right, Lisa Zack, 12, United Elementary, first; Ann Yoachim, 15, N.E. Bradford, second; Adrienne Elkin, 14, Marlon Center, third; Amy Byerly, 15, Line Mountain, fourth; and Scott Byers, 14, Greenwood, fifth.

## Grange Upset With Budget

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — There are some glaring holes in Gov. Casey's agricultural appropriations in his proposed budget, according to Pennsylvania State Grange Legislative Director Brenda Shambaugh.

The most glaring holes are in the governor's appropriations to the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School and the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board. Both line items received nothing in appropriations. Yet both are vital to the agricultural community.

Being the only veterinary school in the state, the University of Pennsylvania plays an important part in making sure the commonwealth has an adequate supply of veterinarians. A large number of those who study at the University end up staying in the state which benefits our economy, Shambaugh said.

Other cuts which the governor has proposed are: a \$770,000 decrease for agriculture research; a \$100,000 decrease in agricultur-

al promotion; a \$166,000 decrease in agricultural research at Penn State; and a \$718,000 decrease for ag extension.

"From the figures, one notices that most of the cuts are in the area of agricultural research and education," Shambaugh said. "We are distressed that the governor has decided to cut such a large proportion from our universities and extension agencies which help improve the number one industry in the state - agriculture.

"Clearly we have our work cut out for us. The Grange will be working with the General Assembly to restore funding for those vital items for the agricultural community."

The Pennsylvania State Grange represents more than 35,000 rural Pennsylvanians. Originally organized as the first family fraternity, the Grange today takes an interest in all areas of rural living including health care, education, local roads, farm preservation and other agricultural issues. ☛

