

FFA Eastern Star Farmer

(Continued from Page A1)

sells through national magazines such as Spotted News and newspapers such as Lancaster Farming.

Mark Runyan, another Ohio breeder, helped Brian learn how to collect, store, and ship semen. But for years Brian was studying the possibility of having his own herd and working up a distribution network which spans the country. (Recently, Brian sold semen to areas in the Midwest, including a breeder in Michigan.)

The Warfordsburg FFA member said, "It's easier to use artificial insemination on sows. You don't have to fool around with frozen semen as you do with cows."

Brian said that the semen is kept cool (about 60 degrees) and is shipped UPS wrapped in a styrofoam insulated box. The technique to inseminate is similar to cows. The sow must be in heat, of course, and the equipment and techniques

used are easier and less expensive than with cows.

"I feel the artificial insemination concept for swine has as much potential as it did for the dairy industry," said Brian. "Some of the opportunities, such as minimizing the cost of breeding stock, minimizing disease transmission, and maximizing profits are obvious."

Brian said he owes thanks to the recognition to FFA advisor Edwin Layton. He "was always very supportive and gave me a lot of encouragement," said Brian.

In a memoir published in the July 1990 Spotted News, Brian said that, since the age of three, he had "already gotten the 'Spotted fever.' One day my mom couldn't find me and when she finally did, I was sitting on a bucket just staring at some pigs in a lot." He said his interest was "encouraged by the fact that my dad was raising Landrace hogs. He has been raising them since before I was born."

Brian said he has been showing

for a number of years, and has close to 20 national champions. Recently, he has obtained a reserve boar champion from the Southeast Conference in Perry, Ga.

Brian said that while his friends had rock stars or movie stars for heroes, his heroes "were well-known hog farmers," he said.

According to the FFA, Brian was one of four regional winners, and will receive \$1,000 from the National FFA Foundation, Inc. Other winners include Hal Hensler Glaze, 21, Eastanollee, Ga.; Darren Funk, 19, Burley, Idaho; and Kelby Paske, 22, Arlington, Wis. from among 1,161 American FFA Degree candidates.

The national winner will be awarded another \$1,000. In addition to cash awards, the regional winners will travel to Europe for the FFA Stars International Experience Tour.

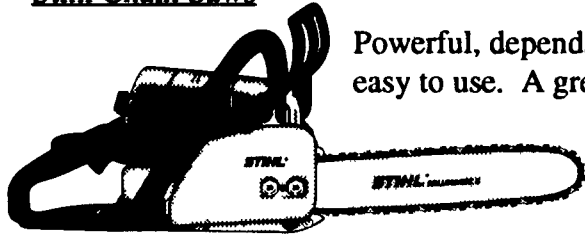
Brian was graduated from Southern Fulton High School in 1989. He and his wife, Pamela, reside in Big Cove Tannery.



The FFA Eastern Star Farmer has increased the size of his operation from one boar to about 400-500 head of swine, including about 300 Spotted Swine and the rest from the Duroc, Landrace, York, Hampshire, and Poland China breeds.

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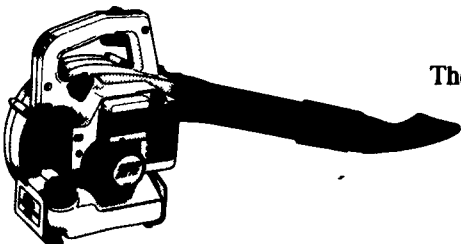


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