Windermere Farm's **Percheron Takes Supreme**

VERNON ACHENBACH JR. Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Making it three out of the past four years, members of the Allebach family, owners of Windermere Farm, Spring Mills, stood in the Large Arena of the state Farm Show Complex last Saturday and showed the supreme champion draft horse.

But this was not last year's champion making a second appearance. This animal was the son of the farm's key Percheron stud --- Blackhome Duke, an all black stallion, and currently the top rated sire in the U.S. and Canada.

The son, Windsong's Gambler, is a 3-year-old that the Allebachs sold and purchased back in order to have an heir to carry on the genetic heritage which has taken shape at the Centre County farm.

This is not Gambler's first win in the showring, either. He was reserve grand champion at last year's Keystone International

Livestock Exposition, grand champion at the Ohio State Fair, grand at the Royal Winter Fair '92 in Toronto and the national Pcrcheron show the last two years. He was also champion at the International Fair in Detroit, Mich.

The supreme draft horse competition at the Farm Show vies mares and stallions of three major breeds Belgian, Percheron, and Ciydesdale.

The Allebachs not only had the top Percheron stallion in the ring, but the top mare as well, Windermere Joy. Joy also is an offspring from Duke.

The Allebach family consists of Gerald Allebach, 29, who showed the stallion to its win, Gerald's wife Cindy, his sister Monica, father Abraham and mother Mary.

Their 450-acre former dairy operation is located east of State College near Penn's Cavern and it is where the family has been breeding and selling Percherons, Thorobreds, Percheron-Thorobred hunter-jumpers, and Clydesdales.



From the left, Neil Buss, deputy secretary of agriculture, holds the supreme champion draft horse banner, while Abram Allebach holds the first annual J. Fred Campbell memorial award. Holding the Percheron stallion is Gerald Allebach. In the back is Richard Campbell, son of J. Fred.



This team of horses was one of several which competed for honors at the state Farm Show. Spectators throng to see the pulling contest, filling the arena to capacity.

According to Gerald, the family repurchased Gambler and two mares to back up Duke, and to begin linebreeding — crossing back on paternal sisters. As to the risk of bringing out an undesirable recessive trait, "You don't stand to lose much line breeding," Gerald said.

Also competing for the title of supreme champion were the grand champion Clydesdale grand champion mare shown by Norman Wever, of Butler; the Clydesdale grand champion stallion, shown by Steven Bentzel, of Hanover; the Belgian grand marc, shown by Liweis and Gail Biddle, of Boalsburg; and the Belgian grand stallion shown by Jerry and Shirley Ray, of Shelocta.

Horses - Draft Horse Hitched Junior Youth Showmanship- 1. Christo-

pher Landis, Lancaster.

- Senior Youth Showmanship- 1. Tammy Lorah, Northampton; 2. Jenn Hoffman, York; 3. Katie Biddle, Centre.
- Horses Supreme Champion Draft Horse Supreme Champion- 1. Windermere Farm, Centre. Belgian Division
- Belgian Stallion, 4 Yrs.- 1. Elmer & Elvin
- Lapp, Lancaster. 2 Yrs.- 1. Jerry & Shirley Ray, Indiana. 1 Yr.- 1. Nathan Yoder, Lancaster. Foel- 1. Daryl Wagner & Family, Franklin;
- 2. Elmer & Elvin Lapp, Lancaster. Senior Champion- 1. Elmer & Elvin Lapp,
- Lancaste Junior Champion- 1, Jerry & Shirley Ray,
- Indiana Reserve Jr. Champion- Nathan Yoder, Lancaster.
- Belgian Stallion, Grand Champion- 1.
- Jerry & Shirley Ray, Indiana. Reserve Grand Champion- 1. Nathan Yoder, Lancaste
- Age-Bred By Exhibitor- 1. Daryl Wagner & Family, Franklin; 2. Elmer & Elvin Lapp, Lancaster
- 5 Yrs. & Older- 1. Donald Sherwood, Wyoming; 2. Elmer & Elvin Lapp, Lancaster;

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