

Delegation From China Visits Area Pork Producers

MARIETTA (Lancaster Co.) — A delegation from the Peoples Republic of China representing the Ministry of Agriculture, hosted by DEKALB Swine Breeders, made a visit to Pennsylvania during the month of December. The delegation was here to study the latest technology in the U.S. swine industry. During their visit, the group was exposed to a state of the art, intensive swine operation, owned by HERSHEY AG and ESHENSHADE MILLS of Mount Joy. The five member delegation toured the Aspen Perry Farm located near Newport. The farm is a total confinement facility which houses 1800 sows exclusively used for commercial swine production. The 72 farrow per week unit, raises the pigs to approximately 50 pounds at 8 weeks of age. From the farrowing unit, the pigs are transferred to one of several all-in, all-out finishing floors. The delegation also toured a representative finisher which houses 3000 market hogs.

Comments received from the delegation were most complimentary. "The breeding stock and facilities were the best we have ever seen," stated Qiu Zhenyuan, Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry Bureau. "The management

level must be excellent to maintain the breeding herd like peas in a pod. The market animals looked healthy and vigorous," stated Sun Qihong, Project Officer, (MOA). The combination of high quality feed, a sound management program, state of the art facilities, and high quality genetics has made for a successful production program.

The delegation continued their journey to visit other facets of Animal Agriculture including broiler and laying hen farms in the Midwest.



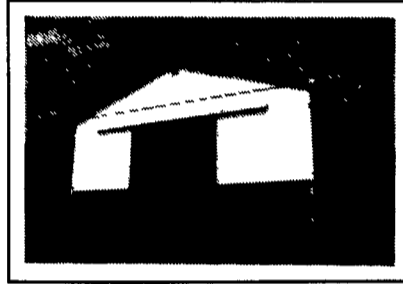
The delegation from China visits a Lancaster hog farm. Hosts include Brent Hershey, center, and Glenn Esbenshade, next from left. Qui Zhenyuan, deputy director, holds the piglet.



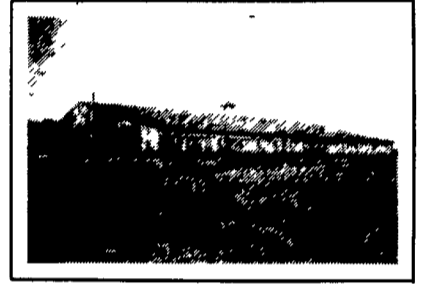
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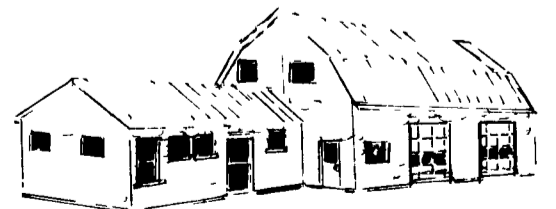


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