

Center Releases Boar Sale Results

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Meat Animal Evaluation Center wishes to announce the results from the 17th Performance Tested Boar Sale.

Charles and Mark Hall consigned the top indexing pen of boars. The top boar in this pen of Yorks sold to James Mathis and Jeanne Beyer of Julian, for \$525.

The second highest indexing pen of boars bred by Neutzel Yorkshires sold next and started off with the highest individual indexing boar. Charles Hall, Rattlesnake Mountain Farms, was the successful bidder at \$1,175, the top price of the day. The second boar in this pen then sold to Hillside Acres of Lenhartsville, for \$900. The 13 Yorkshire boars averaged \$560.

Baum Family Landrace had consigned the only entries in this breed, but the entrees were a good representation for their breed and they were in demand. The highest selling Landrace, out of this pen, sold to Roy Jamison of Chambers-

burg, for \$1,000; Kenneth Jones of Danville, bought the second boar out of this pen for \$900. The four Landrace boars averaged \$656.

Penn State University had the top indexing pen of Durocs. The top indexing and top selling Duroc boar came from this pen. This boar was purchased by Hillside Acres for \$500. The three Duroc boars sold averaged \$467.

The four Hampshire boars averaged \$481. Carl Rabenold and Franklin Feeser each sold a Hampshire boar for \$500. These boars sold to Hillside Acres and Brian Hege of Fayetteville, respectively.

The 24 performance tested boars sold averaged \$551.

The center is accepting pens of progeny pigs for our fall-winter testing program. The next boar testing program will begin in March 1994. The next performance tested boar sale is scheduled for Wednesday evening, August 17, 1994.

For more information on Pen-

sylvania's performance testing programs, contact Glenn Eberly, director of the Meat Animal Eva-

luation Center, 651 Fox Hollow Road, State College, PA 16803, (814) 238-2527.

Last York County

(Continued from Page A30)

"Besides, who can continue to operate with 1993-level operating expenses on a 1980-level income? Some 70 percent of our farmers now depend on some or almost all of their living to come from off farm jobs," Flaharty continues. "It doesn't paint a very good picture down the road."

William Sprenkle, Jr., at the York offices of Abbottstown-based Hoke Mills, Inc., like Flaharty, has watched numerous county feed firms close over the years.

"Feed companies operate on a very low profit margin; to stay in

business, you must have a certain level of volume. With declining numbers of family farmers, there is just less dollar value available," he laments of the trend.

"Equipment advertising is so widespread now that Lancaster is getting York's business," flatly insists Jim Waltemyer, owner of Waltemyer's Sales and Service, Red Lion, the sole remaining full-service John Deere dealership in York County. Like other agribusiness firms, Waltemyer verbally ticks off a list of York County equipment dealers that have closed their doors in the last two decades, easily a dozen he figures.

"Those that are still here are likely to stay - but you're not going to see any new ones starting up," Waltemyer is certain. While fewer full time farmers have impacted sales of equipment over the years, "weekend" farmers continue to be an increasing factor for dealers who, like Waltemyer, serve the lawn and garden business.

"If the government wants to jump-start the economy," suggests Waltemyer, "they should put another dollar on corn, beans, milk. If farmers get more money, it bumps right up through the rest of the economy. Three-quarters of our sales in recent years is for equipment that farmers absolutely must have and simply can't put off buying any more."

"If farmers got a little more return for what they produce, we couldn't get enough equipment to supply the demand to replace what's wearing out."

Both federal and state ag census data on file at the York County Extension Office depict in numbers the continuing loss of farms and farmland in the county.

The 1982 Ag Census notes 282 dairy farms in York County, averaging 52 head per herd, and a total of 14,748 dairy cows. Pennsylvania Ag Statistics data for 1991, by comparison, counts 215 dairy farms of an average 67 head totalling 14,300.

Inventory of beef cattle and calves in 1992 was at 51,000, down from the 1982 count of 53,400. Hog numbers were up, with an estimated 101,700 head marketed in 1982 to a 1987 estimate of 135,000.

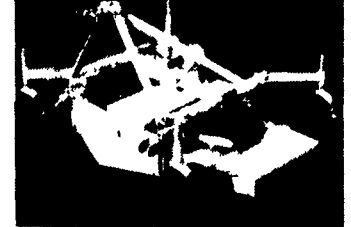
Cropland planted in major grain and forage crops in York County dropped from 204,000 acres in 1980 to 182,000 acres in 1990, according to John Rowehl, York Extension agronomist.

"The only crop that has shown an increase has been soybeans," adds Rowehl, noting that bean acreage in York County increased from 18,000 acres in 1985 to a current estimated 32,000 acres. Corn grain acreage decreased from 93,000 acres in 1980 to 65,000 acres in 1990, while wheat also dropped from 30,000 acres in the early 1980s to the low 20,000-acre level a decade later.

"Feed crop acres tend to run with the dairy and livestock industry; the rest appears to be in a steady decline, except for the increase in beans," the agronomist notes. Reflecting that, alfalfa acreage has remained relatively level in the last ten years, about 15,500 acres, while acres in other types of hay dropped from 31,000 acres to 24,500 acres. Corn silage, in Rowehl's estimate, fluctuates considerably with drought years, ranging from 10,000 to 15,000 acres.

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