## ProGenetics Displays European Genetics At Field Day

**ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancas**ter Co.) - Despite the rainy circumstances, farmers from near and far took time out of their day recently to explore what ProGenetics, a division of White Oak Mills in Elizabethtown, had to offer at its ProGenetics Field Day.

More than 300 swine producers and industry representatives filled the Manheim Farm Show Build-

ing, where the event was held.

Dr. Mike Miller, vice president of sales and marketing for White Oak Mills, said, "We took the opportunity to show off our new European bloodlines. Everyone enjoyed seeing the pigs and participating in the numerous activities which existed throughout the

Producers from Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Iowa, Ohio and North Carolina attended the ProGenetics Field Day.

Dr. Peggy Hawkins, staff veterinarian for White Oak Mills, demonstrated artificial insemination techniques, explained the process involved, as well as provided hands-on experience for attending producers.

"Because we sell only limited quantities of semen from our ProGenetics boar station," Hawkins said, "our goal was to make progressive farmers aware that they could buy their own Pro-Genetics boars and collect and extend semen on their own farm."

She said, "Producers seemed quite curious to view live semen under the microscope and were most intrigued when someone wanted to follow my example and breed a sow."

Other demonstrations included ultrasound selection, in which a real time machine scanned backfat and loin depth of a live hog at the 10th rib; market hog evaluation; feeding hogs for high-lean gain; and marketing hogs using the Fat-O-Meter.

Dr. Ken Bryant, director of tech services for Carl S. Akey, a field day sponsor, said, "I was very impressed with the representation of the swine industry. Pro-Genetics provided a broad-based view of the needs and trends of the industry, including general, nutritional, pharmaceutical and marketing information.'

He said, "This event allowed our company to visit with key customers of White Oak Mills and other producers and to continue to educate them about pork

production."

In addition, ProGenetics took the opportunity to show off their new European bloodlines, including Pietrain and Danish boars, Pietrain/Duroc crosses, Danish Landrace, Swedish Large Whites, and Pro Gilts, while ProGenetics representatives stood nearby to answer questions.

## **Dairy Production Medicine Program Holds First Graduation**

UNIVERSITY PARK (Center Co.) — The first 23 veterinarians to complete the Dairy Production Medicine Certificate Program were recognized in a formal ceremony held recently on Penn State's University Park Campus.

"This event culminates three years of dedicated effort," said Dr. Dale Moore, program coordinator and research assistant in Penn State's veterinary science department. "These veterinarians receive certificates that enable them to sit on the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners' Dairy Specialty Board."

Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine started the program in January 1991 to help veterinarians take a more active role in healthy herd management.

"Today's veterinarians are being asked to devise preventive health management strategies and to help herds meet their production potential," Moore said. "The Dairy Production Medicine Certificate Program serves a real need, since these topics are rarely covered in the standard veterinary curriculum.'

The participants completed a series of nine three-day workshops to help them shift their emphasis from the health of individual animals to the health of an entire dairy herd. The final workshop focused on problem solving and farm finances, integrating all

the skills and techniques covered in previous workshops.

The workshops were held both on Penn State's University Park Campus and at Penn's New Bolton Center. Each workshop featured lectures, laboratory work, visits to study herds, and practical assignments.

Topics covered in the workshops included mastitis control and milk quality, infectious diseases and replacement heifers, computer skills, herd monitoring, reproductive management, epidemiology, nutrition, and the relationship between the environment and animal health.

A second class of veterinarians begins the program in January

To evaluate the program's effectiveness, changes in productivity, reproductive efficiency, and milk quality are being monitored in herds served by the participating veterinarians. "We want to assess the program's impact by comparing the performance of those herds with that of control herds whose veterinarians were not enrolled in the course," Moore

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