

Another Chance At A Championship

(Continued from Page A1)

bers," said Tina. "I'm an older member, so we have some pigs at a

meeting that we show the younger members, and provide help on how to show pigs. Throughout all the

fairs I've gone to I've learned to get better."

Tina said others helped her along the way.

The first year in 4-H, the leaders helped new members select pigs, but from then on, "we just always did it ourselves," said Tina. She also said she entered contests as an FFA livestock judge, which helped her fine-tune her judging abilities.

Tina uses those abilities to select potential champions. At the Umbrell farm, she helps wean and feed the hogs and keeps farm records. To select the show animals, Tina said she and Matt went into the nursery and picked out four of the best pigs.

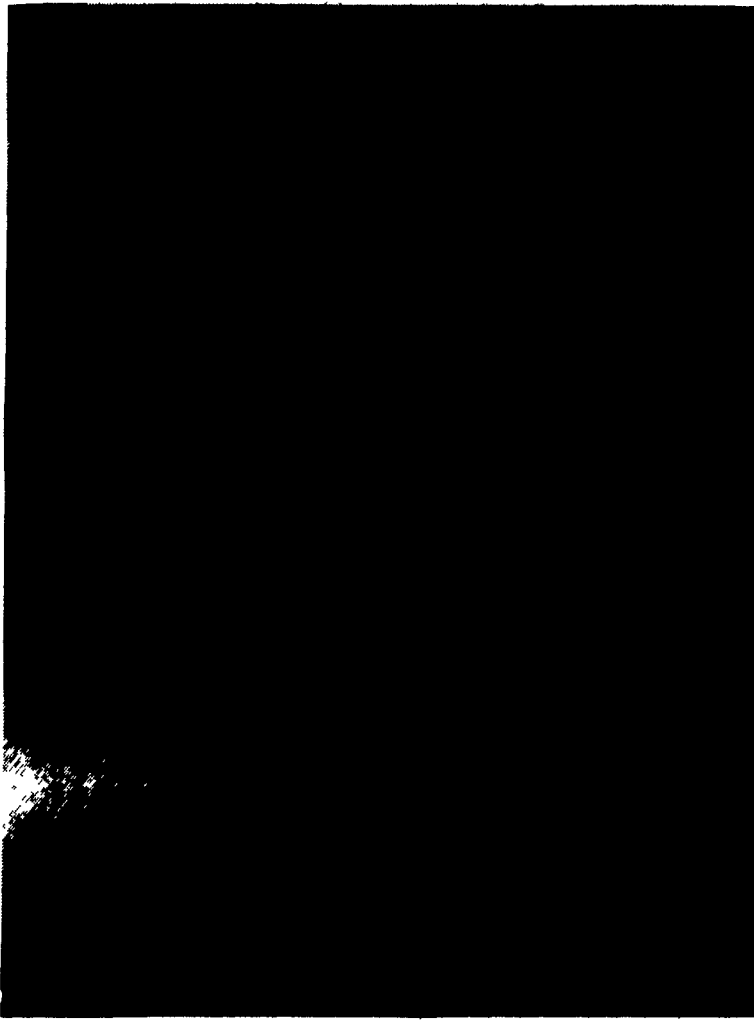
There are certain characteristics to look for in a pig.

"You can tell to a certain extent how the pigs are going to look when they are 200-250 pounds," she said. "You don't want a scrawny pig. You look for a nice bone structure, and you look for muscling throughout the shoulder and the ham."

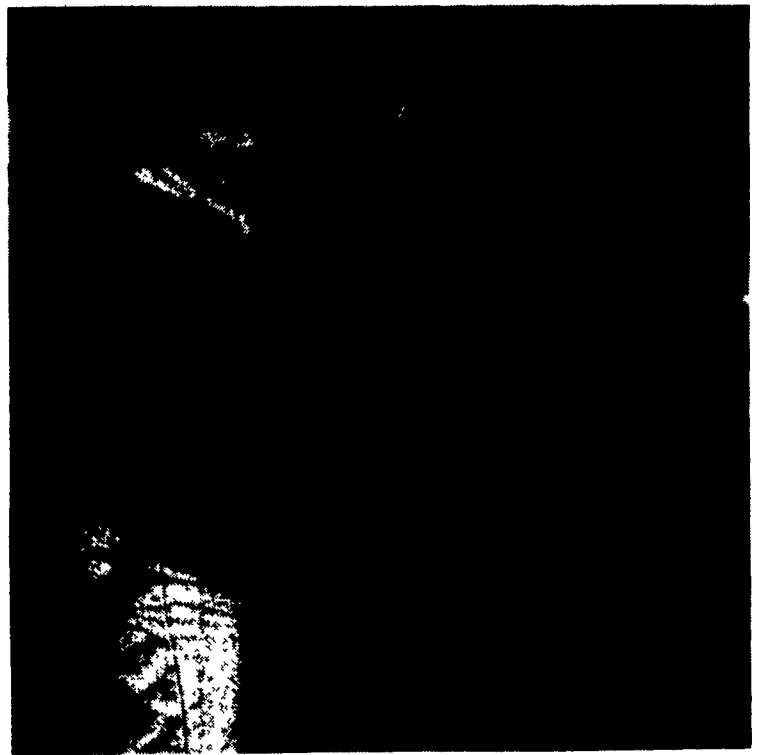
Also, a potential champion should be lengthy and not "sway-backed," she said.

Tina, in addition to helping on the 1,400-head pig farm that is under contract with White Oak Mills, works part-time as a nurse's assistant at the Masonic Homes.

Matt helps his father take care of about 110 head of finish steers and helps out when he can with the family's hog operation.



Matt Umbrell cleans the self-feeder for his show hogs at the farm.



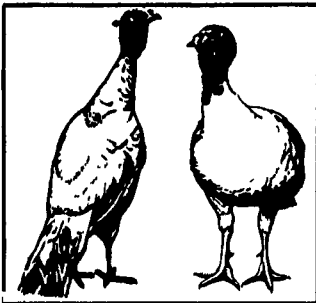
Tina Umbrell loads hay to the feeder for the finish steers.



Matt, left and Tina Umbrell show some of the trophies during years past at the Elizabethtown and Manheim Fairs. With them is their dog, Bear.

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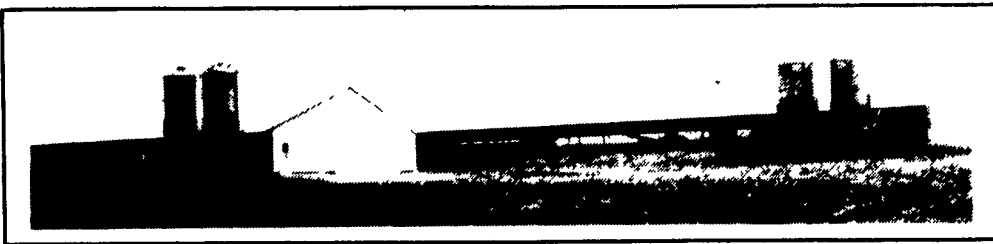
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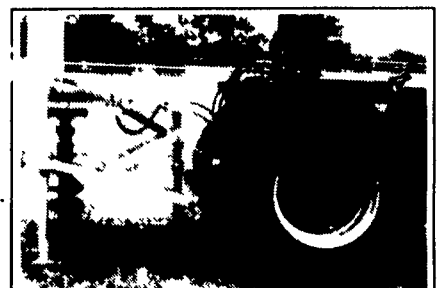


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