

Bennecooffs Clinch Farm Show Swine Championship

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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)

— The Bennecoff family has shown at countless KILE, Allentown Fair, and other shows throughout the country. But they triumphed for the first time at the Pennsylvania Farm Show last Saturday when they finally picked up a grand championship with their Hampshire, a “really big-scaled gilt, which has a good underline, good udder, and good length,” according to Jack Rodibaugh, Rensselaer, Ind., show judge.

Todd Bennecoff, Kutztown, exhibited TDB3 MS Bell Star 1-5, a January gilt, to the championship of the Hampshire breed class and the farm show open swine show championship.

Following are the winners of each class by show order.

Berkshires

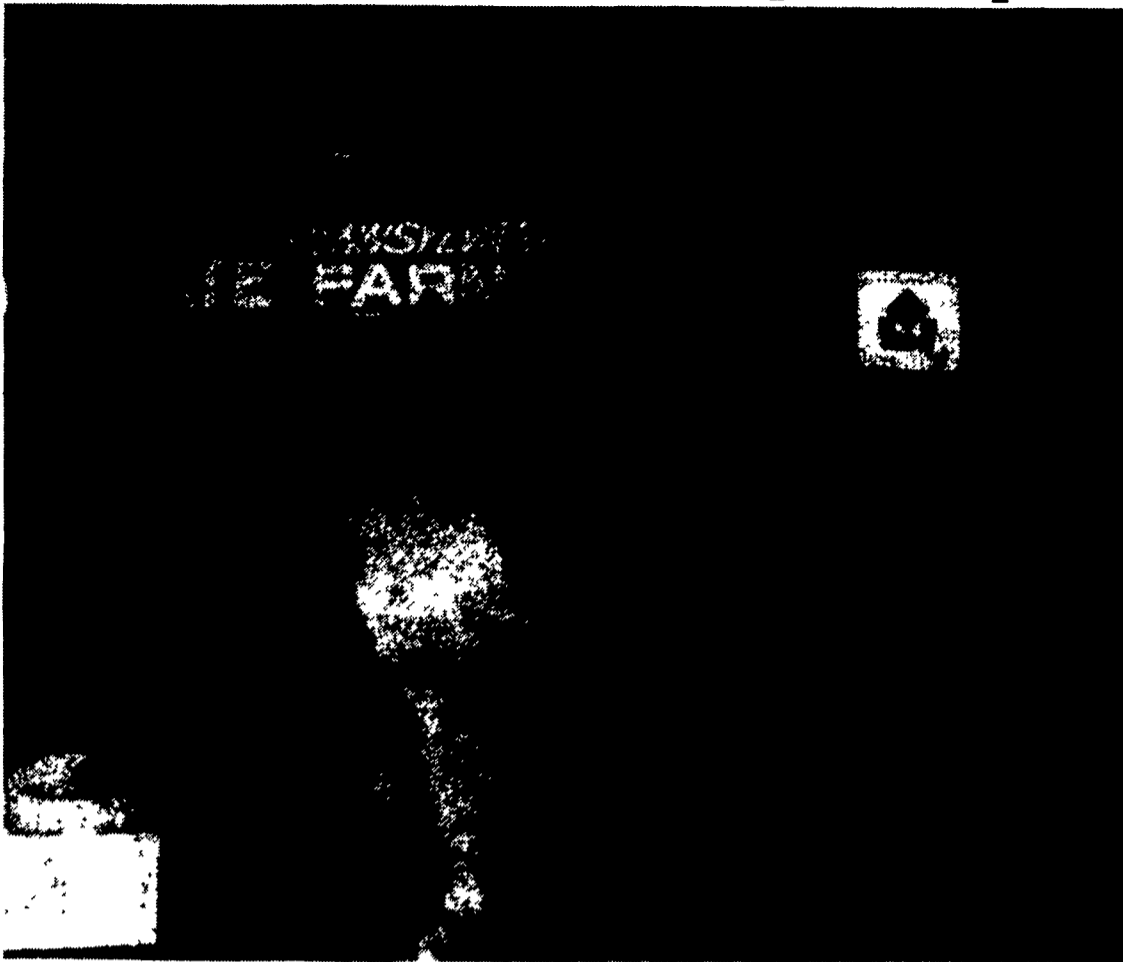
The Bennecooffs, which include Todd, Cheryl, son Todd, Jr. and daughter Justine, also swept the Berkshire class.

The ability of a hog to walk free and easy with a lot of evenness and strength down the top are what the breed industries look for in a gilt, and this applies especially well to the Berkshire championship class, according to Rodibaugh. Champion of the class went to TLB3 Miss Conan 4-7.

The Bennecooffs also picked up reserve champion with a gilt that was “nicely balanced and moves off her front end better than the other gilts out there,” said Rodibaugh. Bennecooffs showed a January gilt to reserve, TLB3 Miss Combination.

Chester Whites

“Where can you buy a pound of balance?” asked Rodibaugh, who



Todd Bennecoff won champion Hampshire gilt and supreme champion swine last week at the Farm Show with this January gilt.

explained that balance is hard to obtain unless control is maintained in feed and other factors. The January gilt had a lot more in one package than the other two she competed against, according to the judge. “You can’t feed them or push them hard if they don’t have the length of body,” said Rodibaugh. Again, the breed wants length and freedom of movement in the gilts.

As a result, the champion was awarded to a January gilt, TM3 Diane M S93 4-1, shown by James T. Parlett and Son, Airville. The Parletts swept the class, also picking up reserve with TM3 Ann T II S93, a February gilt. The reserve had the “trendy” characteristics for the breeds, said Rodibaugh, which include “longevity, and length of neck and rump up,” he said. “She moves free and easy, and has a lot of longevity which can go a long way down the road for the breed.”

Durocs

Like the reserve champion gilt shown in the class, the champion gilt, shown by Donald Chambers for Dennis Chambers, was a “well-balanced” gilt with a lot of squareness in shoulders and down the top, the most lean gilt in the class.

Champion went to 3 Bell S90 1-7, a January gilt. Reserve champion of the class was the second January gilt, shown by Clyde McConaughy, Smicksburg, who showed CM3 MS Babe Rutt 4-4.

Hampshires

The champion gilt from the Hampshire breed class, shown by Todd Bennecoff, Kutztown, is a “really big-scaled gilt,” said Rodibaugh. Bennecoff exhibited TDB3 MS Bell Star 1-5.

Reserve champion showed good bone, scale, balance, and freedom of movement in front and rear, according to Rodibaugh. Reserve was shown by Darren Grumbine and Brian Eisenhour, Miss SP85 1-4, from Myerstown.

Landrace

The longest-bodied gilt of the Landrace breed class shone in the eye of the judge. The January gilt, shown by Stephen Wessner, New Tripoli, SAW3 Dora 2-6, was champion.

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Reserve Landrace champion went to Harlan Wessner, Rocky Acres Farm, for this gilt.



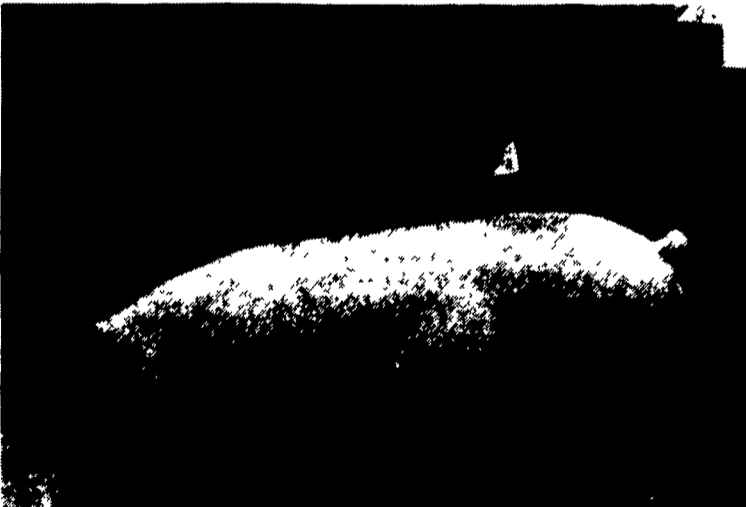
Chester White champion went to James T. Parlett and Son, Airville.



The champion Spotted swine was shown by Russell Kegg.



Jennifer Flinchbaugh shows this reserved Yorkshire, a February gilt, at the Farm Show.



Elwood Houser shows this champion Yorkshire, a January gilt, last week at the Farm show.



Duroc reserve champion gilt went to Clyde McConaughy, Smicksburg.