

Lancaster Farming

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Pennsylvania Purebred Hog Show, Sale Highlights Quality

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Lancaster Farming Staff

NORTH CORNWALL — A number of Pennsylvania's top breeders of Yorkshire, Duroc, and Hampshire swine participated in the annual state show and sale of those breeds last Saturday at the Lebanon Area Fairgrounds, in Lebanon.

According to show officials only two exhibitors weren't able to attend because of the winter storm. Buyers from seven different states attended the sale that followed the show.

Randy Smith, herdsman at Isler's Yorkshires and Durocs, of Ohio, was judge.

There were a total of 57 animals registered for the show and sale, which broke down to 25 Yorkshires, 16 Durocs, and 16 Hampshires. The purpose of the show and sale is generally to offer breeders a chance to buy and sell breeding stock to enhance their own operations.

Many of the participants raise and sell purebred or mixed hogs for breeding or showing. All open gilts and boars entered in the show were first scanned for loin eye and backfat.

"At this show, we have been using Mike Cherkchuck Real-Time Scanning for backfat and loin eye, for four years," said Steve Wilson, show organizer. "We feel (ultrasound scanning for desirable characteristics) is a plus for our customers knowing this about the animals they purchase. We feel it is vital in producing lean quality animals."

The cash sale auctioneer was Harry Bachman, of Annville and he saw an average of \$365 for Yorkshire bred gilts, \$450 for Duroc bred gilts, and \$445 for Hampshire bred gilts.

Yorkshire boars sold for an average of \$300 each, Duroc boars brought an average of \$450, and Hampshire boars brought \$650 each.

Of the open gilts, Yorkshires

sold for an average of \$188, Durocs sold for \$202 on average, and Hampshires went for \$247 each.

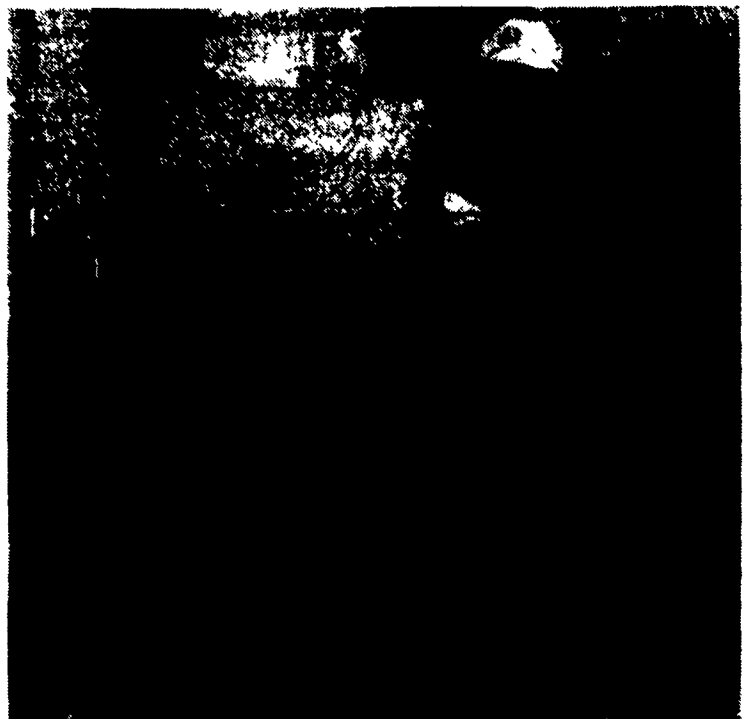
All animals were cleared of brucellosis and pseudorabies and were to have been vaccinated for leptospirosis and erysipelas not less than 21 days before the sale.

Show premiums were paid for the top 10 bred gilts in the junior and senior groups, ranging from \$40 for first place to \$22 for 10th. For the boars and open gilts, show premiums ran from \$40 for first to \$4 for 10th place.

The classes were for boars and gilts farrowed after July 1, 1993. The limits were one boar per consignor per breed, and two open gilts per consignor per breed.

Showers were allowed to enter as many bred gilts, farrowed on or after Feb. 1, 1993, as they desired, as long as the gilts weren't bred to a boar from a different breed. Showers were restricted to entering one gilt bred to a different breed boar.

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Russ Wilson, son of Steve and Cindy Wilson, stands behind his family's farm champion Yorkshire open gilt of the Pennsylvania York, Duroc, Hampshire Show and Sale.

A Home Where The Buffalo Roam

MIRIAM WERT

Juniata Co. Correspondent
MIFFLINTOWN (Juniata Co.)

— While taking photos of the buffalo at the Juniata Springs Bison Farm, the only thing missing was a tribe of Indians riding over the hill. The herd was inside the fence, contently munching on hay placed there by owners Doug and Shirley Drewes. The bison gave no indication of being wild animals as they are officially known. Seeing a stranger so close by did not alarm them in the least.

If the Drewes had chosen another name for their farm, surely it would have been, "A Dream Come True" or "Heaven on Earth". Both names reflect their

expressed feelings about the farm. They are both from farming backgrounds although their families did not own farms. As a youth, Doug worked as a farmhand for various farmers and learned to love the land. He always dreamed of having his own farm "some day", and Shirley joined in on that dream after they married.

They had a few acres in Lancaster County. Several years ago, Doug read an ad in *Lancaster Farming* that a bison was for sale, and his dream increased to wanting not merely a farm but a bison farm. The couple purchased the 32-acre farm at Mifflintown in Juniata County, and moved to it in June 1992.

In November of that year, they bought their first bison and kept increasing the herd regularly to the present 22. The animals came from various places, including locally, New York, South Dakota, Colorado and West Virginia. These animals are possibly the third generation raised inside a fence, and they make no attempt to jump the fence even with the high snow.

In addition to the acreage on the Drewes farm, they farm 70 acres elsewhere.

Their principal crops are hay and field corn. The corn is ground for the bison and mixed with vitamins and needed natural supple-

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Doug Drewes feeds hay to a buffalo.

National Grassland Enthusiasts Visit Dutch Country

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)—"Grass is the forgiveness of nature, a constant benediction. It yields no fruit in earth or air yet should its harvest fail for a single year, famine would depopulate the world."

John Baylor, historian and past president of the American Forage and Grassland Council (AFGC), used this 125-year-old quote to capture the attention of members of the council from all areas of the U.S. and Canada at their annual convention held this week at the Host Resort. He was telling how AFGC serves the producers.

In many countries 90 to 100 percent of the nutrients from ruminant livestock comes from forage. In the U.S. about half of the farming area is grassland. Through dairy animals, beef animals, and sheep, 25 percent of the nation's food supply has its base in forages. But even today, according to Baylor, forages

are producing only about one-fourth its known potential.

In 1942 a number of industry people gathered at the New Jersey Experiment Station to discuss what could be done in the field of grassland harvest. Harvesting was labor intensive at the time, and the country was at war so food was a problem. From this beginning, efforts were made to develop methods to handle forages, because they are the backbone of input costs to operate the farm.

"I know of no other organization that has had the producer directly in mind in the development procedure," Baylor said. "At the time, information was not readily available. So the new organization spent time developing educational materials. In addition, field days, workshops, and farmer awards programs were initiated to increase the educational value of the council."

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John Baylor, known as a lifetime supporter of grassland and forages, was honored for writing the history of the council's first 50 years that was published for the golden anniversary of the American Forage and Grassland Council meeting in Lancaster this week. Making the presentation are from left, Garry Lacefield, past president; Baylor; Vivien Allen, past president; and Clive Holland, new president.