

Penn State Team Succeeds In National Contests

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season were the American Royal in Kansas City, Mo., and the National Contest at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville. After a month-long respite, team members were anxious to prove their abilities in the most difficult contest annually for teams east of the Mississippi. A smooth plane ride from University Park to Kansas City paved the way for the remainder of what would prove to be a very educational and worthwhile trip for the Nittany Lions.

The long weekend began on

Wednesday with a workout at Prairieland Genetics, where the team viewed some of the finest Hampshire hogs in the country and visited with Dr. Robert Hines and Brian Hines. At Thursday morning's workout they viewed five classes of Angus bull calves and three of Angus heifer calves at Fink's Genetics (owned by Galen and Lori Fink). After lunch, they judged four cattle, two sheep, and two swine classes at Kansas State University.

Friday morning began with a two-hour drive to northeast Kansas

to judge Shorthorn cattle at Grathwohl's, and then on to Ackerman's Simmentals. The last practice stop was at Burke and Farao Hampshires and Suffolks, where the team placed five classes of breeding sheep before heading on to their ultimate destination.

With 22 teams and 110 individuals competing, the American Royal was the second largest contest of the year for Penn State. Because it's generally the first true test of each year against some of the finest teams from the midwest, the American Royal contest has

been somewhat intimidating to Penn State students in recent years.

This year would be different, with the team ready for anything and anyone. Bomgardner finished 25th in sheep judging and led the team to a 9th place finish in this species. Ahola placed 20th and Bomgardner placed 22nd in swine judging. The Penn State team finished a respectable 10th in swine.

The judging team continued their success in the reasons room, coming in 9th in oral reasons, as Bomgardner placed 20th.

However, the most notable plac-

ings of the day and the claim to fame for the 1994 Penn State Livestock Judging Team was their extraordinary performance in judging beef cattle. All five of the Penn State contestants finished in the top 50 percent, including Ahola (7th), Bomgardner (8th), Gibney (24th) Mattocks (46th), and McIntire (51st). This performance garnered an astonishing third-place finish in beef cattle and led the team to a 6th place finish overall.

Bomgardner had a very consistent day overall, finishing 9th in a very competitive field. This competition marked the first time in the last 13 or so years that a Penn State team finished in the top 10 overall, let alone in the top 10 in each category, and as high as 3rd in any species.

A confident Penn State team headed to a difficult and challenging competition at the National Contest in Louisville. In preparation, they visited Ohio State University in Columbus, Shadwell Limousin Farm and the University of Kentucky in Lexington, and Stonelea Shorthorns in Prospect, Ky. A total of 34 teams representing institutions from Pennsylvania to Florida and Oregon competed in the 89th National Contest.

Mattocks led Penn State with an 8th place finish in sheep judging. The team finished 7th in the class of performance Dorset ewe lambs and 25th in sheep. Swine judging was difficult, with the group finishing 24th. Team members continued their cattle-judging success from the American Royal as Gibney and Mattocks placed 17th and 25th, respectively. The team placed 8th in beef cattle classes with performance data, 7th in Shorthorns, and 9th in beef cattle overall. In oral reasons, the team placed 15th and finished 10th overall in all classes with performance data. Mattocks finished 12th overall out of 170 contestants, and the team finished 22nd overall.

Although the results at the national contest contrasted those from the previous week at the American Royal, the 1994 Penn State Livestock Judging Team will be remembered for an exceptional day of judging at the American Royal. They will be known as the "Kansas City" team.

Hunters Harvest 1,377 Bears

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — After surviving a near weather washout on opening day, Pennsylvania hunters who dried out and returned to the hunt brought 1,377 bears to Pennsylvania Game Commission check stations. This is a preliminary figure for the three-day Thanksgiving Week season.

While the 1994 bear harvest is well off the record of 2,213 taken in 1989, it still ranks as the fourth highest in the last five years. Normally, about 60 percent of a three-

day season's harvest occurs on the first day. This year, 624 bruins were processed through check stations. The combined total for the second and third days was 753.

Preliminary tabulations show Lycoming County led the state with a harvest of 132 bears. Following were Clearfield, 113; Clinton, 95; Centre, 86; and Pike, 70.

Additionally, preliminary figures indicate that 652 bears were taken within the northcentral region. The northeast had 384;

northwest, 136; southwest, 120; southcentral, 57; southeast, 28. Preliminary county harvest totals for the three-day season were:

NORTHWEST: Clarion, 24; Crawford, 1; Forest, 16; Jefferson, 33; Venango, 34; Warren, 28.

SOUTHWEST: Armstrong, 9; Cambria, 18; Fayette, 4; Indiana, 36; Somerset, 27; Westmoreland, 26.

NORTH CENTRAL: Cameron, 20; Centre, 86; Clearfield, 113; Clinton, 95; Elk, 41; Lycoming, 132; McKean, 36; Potter, 41; Tioga, 69;

Union, 19.

SOUTHCENTRAL: Bedford, 4; Blair, 13; Huntingdon, 20; Mifflin, 15; Perry, 1; Snyder, 4.

NORTHEAST: Bradford, 26; Carbon, 28; Columbia, 21; Lackawanna, 30; Luzerne, 45; Monroe, 55; Northumberland, 4; Pike, 70; Sullivan, 39; Susquehanna, 3; Wayne, 45; Wyoming, 18.

SOUTHEAST: Berks, 2; Dauphin, 1; Northampton, 1; Schuylkill, 24.

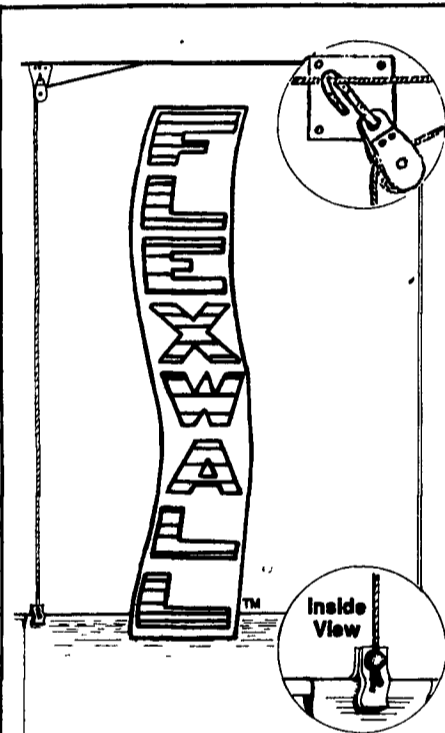
INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

In other news, Willis Sneath, director of the Game Commission's Northcentral Region, has announced that an investigation continues into an illegal deer baiting incident in Farmington Twp., Tioga County. The investigation began Tuesday, Nov. 29, the second day of Pennsylvania's antlered deer season.

According to Sneath, as many as nine individuals face charges for the killing of 20 illegal deer. Four Tioga County residents and five individuals from Lehigh and Northampton counties are being investigated. Preliminary information indicates that 13 antlerless deer and seven buck were killed from baited stands on the property.

Charges for violations of the Game and Wildlife Code could exceed \$50,000.

Tioga County District Attorney John F. Cowley is assisting Game Commission officers in the investigation.



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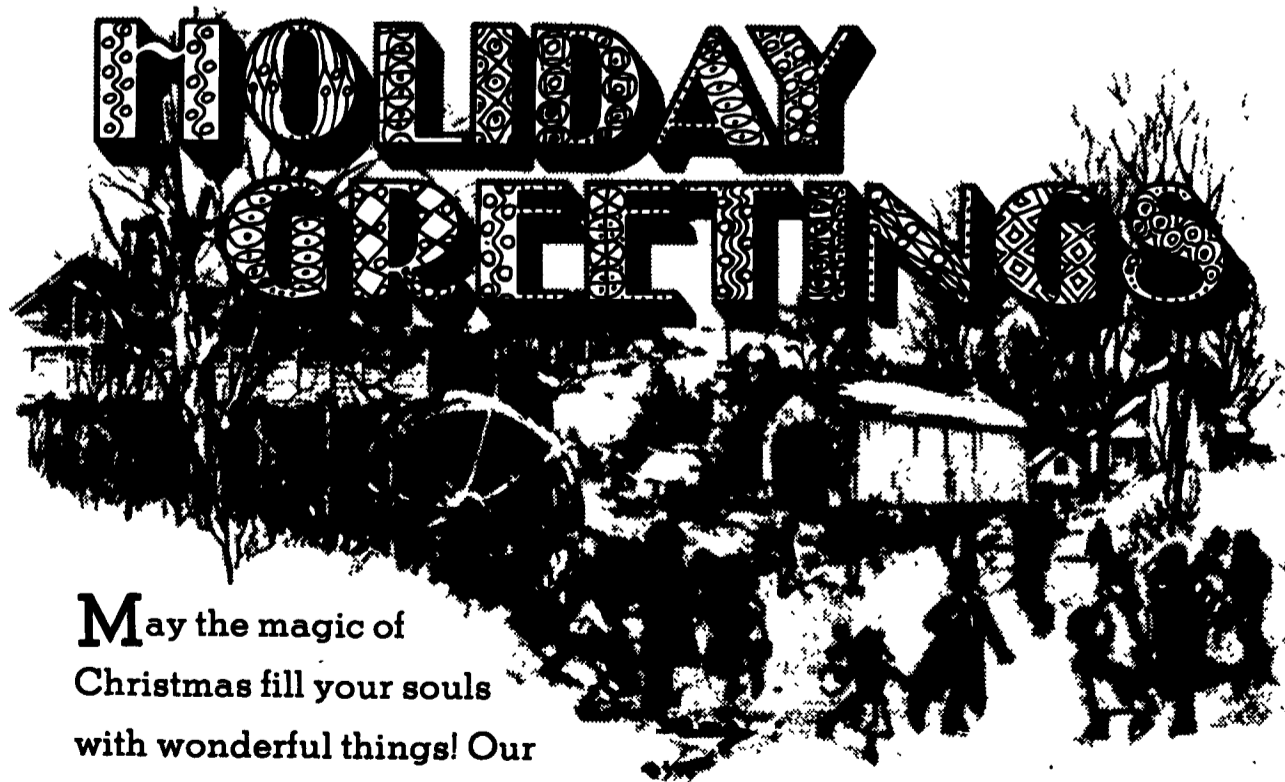
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Pork Bowl Needs Entries

NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) — The Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council will once again be sponsoring the "Pennsylvania Pork Bowl" at the Keystone Pork Congress.

The Keystone Pork Congress will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 9 a.m. at the Lebanon Valley Exposition Center, 1½ miles south of Lebanon.

Each county is invited to enter a team of four 4-H'ers and/or four FFA members. Please send your entries to Kenneth Winebark, Lebanon County Extension Office, 2120 Cornwall Rd., Suite 1, Lebanon, PA 17042 before Jan. 16.

An entry fee of \$25 is required per team. Please enclose your check payable to Pennsylvania Pork Producers with your entry. This will be refunded if your team participates.

Entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, so please be certain you will have a team before you enter. Only 12 teams will be accepted for competition. If your entry is accepted, a copy of the rules and questions will be sent to you after the Jan. 16 deadline.

Awards will be presented to the top teams. The top team will receive free tickets to the KPC banquet.

If you have any questions, contact Ken Winebark at (717) 270-4391.