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350 Turn Out For Keystone Pork Expo

Early Weaning Boasts Health, Cost Benefits For Hog Producers

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff

NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) — Hog producers can easily benefit with a healthier pig that goes to market a lot sooner, with less expense, if they use some form of segregated early weaning (SEW). An earlier weaned and segregated pig will enjoy a higher health status, eat more efficiently, and go to market faster.

Weaning pigs early and segregating them "is all you need to do" to provide an increase in litters per sow and number of pigs crated per year, according to Dr. L. Kirk Clark, professor, Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, Purdue University. Clark said that SEW provides a decrease in days to 250 pounds, boosts feed efficiency, and decreases medication costs and death loss.

Clark spoke on Wednesday during the seminar portion of the Keystone Pork Expo (formerly Pork Congress) at the Lebanon Valley

Expo Center at the Lebanon Fairgrounds. About 350 pork producers and industry representatives attended.

The veterinarian reviewed examples of several tests on commercial breeding herds under research near Purdue. Clark told those that the "returns much outweigh the costs" of implementing SEW.

Data on how well the hogs dressed after being raised by SEW will be unveiled at the World Pork Expo this year.

For now, information on one such herd was revealed at the Pork Expo.

The pigs were weaned at 14 days, weighing about 12 pounds. About 500 pigs, purchased from nurseries, were brought in on utility trucks (Ryder was used) to three buildings — simple trailers outfitted with plastic slatted floors and containing fence line feeders. Nipple waterers were used, but cup waterers would prove even more

(Turn to Page A20)



At the annual Keystone Pork Bowl, a close contest was clinched with the last group of questions. York FFA won first place, beating out the second-place Indiana FFA team 185-130. The York FFA members are, from left, Bertha Jasienski, assistant coach; Mark Parrish; Allsha Eberly; Shanna Daugherty; Heather Jasienski; and Melissa Trostle, coach.

Maryland Grange Young Couple Enjoy Farming

LOIS SZYMANSKI

Maryland Correspondent

NEW WINDSOR, Md. — Thomas and Brenda Ripley of New Windsor in Carroll County, Maryland, have been named the Maryland State Grange Young Couple

of the Year and will attend banquets, dinners, picnics and various Grange events as representatives of the Maryland State Grange. They received the title at a ceremony held at the annual Maryland State Grange session which was

held in Hagerstown, Maryland in October.

The Ripley's farm, Ripley Vale Farm, is a 225-acre farm which has been in the family for 40 years. Tom and Brenda Ripley took over the farming operation from Tom's parents Ralph and Betty Ripley almost five years ago. Since then, they have added to their farming capabilities by doubling their farmable land with rented parcels. These days the couple farm close to 500 acres.

Tom and Brenda Ripley crop farm much of their land. Last year they farmed 170 acres in corn, 70 acres in soybeans, 125 acres in alfalfa, 20 acres of timothy and 35 acres of barley. They also grew wheat and oats, selling some of their overage.

With approximately 200 grade and registered Holstein cows, Ripley Vale Farm also operates a clean and efficient dairy. The stanchion barn they use for milking is capable of handling 26 head at a time. Currently, with the help of dad, Ralph Ripley, and one hired hand, they milk between 100 and

(Turn to Page A35)



At the Junior Pennsylvania Holstein convention last week, these senior-aged distinguished members were honored. From the left, sitting, are Jili Harnish and Rachel Tanis. From left, standing, Stephanie Anderson, Amy Packard, Justin McMurray, and Nichol Bozilinski. See story and photos on page C14-16.

Changing World For Holstein Breeders

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.

Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Members of the Holstein Association USA Inc. have a number of issues to discuss and settle at its upcoming national Holstein convention, set to be held June 25-28 in Pittsburgh, according to

discussions and topics covered Thursday at one of the Holstein Association's annual open forums held at the Sheraton Inn in Harrisburg.

John Howard, of Willow Street, and Ron Wood, of Mansfield, both members of the association's board of directors, presided over

the forum and sought reaction on a number of issues facing the organization, ranging from amending the bylaws to change whole herd transfer fees to deciding whether a 5-year incremental change, or a rolling base change of Holstein sire values would benefit

(Turn to Page A23)



The Maryland State Grange Young Couple are Tom and Brenda Ripley. They own and operate the Ripley Vale Dairy Farm at New Windsor in Carroll County.