

# Kirst's Market Hog Overall Champion In Southeast Derby

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**INTERCOURSE** (Lancaster Co.) — A crossbred entry by Roxanne Kirst of Lebanon recently won the title of overall champion of this year's Southeast Pennsylvania 4-H Market Hog Derby.

The 5-year-old competition is unique in that it has been created as a long-term educational program in the raising of swine for the commercial market.

Very simply, the competition consists of participating youth entering hogs into the contest early in the year at a central weigh-in place.

They take the young hogs back home for several months of feeding and caring. The youth are to keep accurate records of the feed amounts, expenses, health, etc.

In August, the youth bring their entries back to a central location where their hogs are reweighed, evaluated on foot, and then taken for slaughter. The carcasses are then evaluated.

The show was held last Wednesday at the Manheim Fairgrounds.

The carcass evaluation and educational program was held last Friday night at Stoltzfus Meats in Intercourse.

There are three areas of concern in the contest. The on-foot showing results, the carcass conformation and composition evaluation, and the rate of gain.

Undersized, or oversized hogs, carcasses with too much backfat, or too small a loin eye, are disqualified.

Out of the 35 market hogs weighed-in, 20 were continued into the final evaluations. Of those, four were disqualified for too much backfat, while one was disqualified for too small a lean eye area (LEA).

Kirst's overall champion weighed in at 56 pounds, finishing out to 247. The carcass was 33 inches long and weighed 186 pounds with only .75-inch of backfat and a 7.05 square-inch LEA (the largest in the competition), for a final rating of .837 pounds of lean gain per day. The carcass came out to 54.723 percent lean.

A final index is calculated based



Dr. Ed Mills, Penn State meat specialist stands with Roxanne Kirst, and her overall champion market hog which also won the title of champion carcass.

on the same commercial industry values endorsed by the National Pork Producers Council for its members. The Kirst hog received a final index of .925.

In the show ring, her hog didn't fare as well. It had placed third in its class of four animals.

A crossbred entry by Allison Hughes, daughter of Lancaster County Extension Agent Chester and Marie Hughes, was reserve overall champion and grand champion in the show ring.

Her animal weighed in at 65 pounds, finished at 262 pounds and had a carcass weight of 193 pounds. The 33.2-inch long carcass was 51.996 percent lean, and had an average daily gain of 1.989 pounds, with .776 pounds lean gain.

Backfat on Hughes's hog was measured at an inch. The final index was .864.

Third place overall was an entry by Jason Shirk, of Lebanon. Shirk's entry won champion honors for average daily rate of gain (ADG) with 2.102 pounds per day, edging out some close competition. The pounds of lean gain per day was .775.

Shirk's crossbred market hog also placed third in its show ring class of four that included Brandon Winebark's reserve champion on-

foot animal. The entry by Winebark, son of Kenneth and Janet Winebark, Myerstown, finished out 10th in overall index.

Shirk's hog weighed in at 47 pounds, out at 253 pounds, and the carcass weighed 185 pounds with a

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Allison Hughes stands with brother Andrew and Dr. Ed Mills and her reserve overall champion of the 1995 S.E. Pa. 4-H Market Hog Derby.



Heather Jaslenski holds her reserve champion carcass plaque and stands with Dr. Ed Mills and her entry. Jaslenski also is a recipient of a S.E. Pa. 4-H Market Hog Derby scholarship.



Dr. Ed Mills, Penn State meat specialist, talks to participants and adults at the Southeast Pa. 4-H Market Hog Derby about cuts of pork and quality factors as related to pork production.



Brandon Winebark holds his reserve on-foot champion rosette over the back of his animal.