

Lancaster Farming

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The Davis family will be honored next week as the Berks County Outstanding Farm Family. They are the second generation winner of the honor. Shown here with JMJ SpringPond Royal Trish, their two-year-old

Holstein that was reserve grand champion at the Kutztown Fair two weeks ago are from left, Jeffery, Michael at halter, Jennifer, Frances, and Ray. See story page A30. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.

Dairy Food Safety Researcher Questions Drug Residue Tests

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
LEMOYNE (Cumberland Co.) — Dairy producers may be suffering unreasonably as a result of current testing practices of raw milk for drug residues, according to a University of California, Davis, researcher.

James S. Cullor, associate professor in the Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology at the University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, addressed a group of about 200 dairy producers, exten-

sion specialists and other industry people who attended the 1995 regional meeting of the National Mastitis Council Inc. held last week at the Radisson-Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center in Leymore.

Cullor said he was critical of the accuracy of current drug residue tests as used in the field, critical of the review process established by

the federal government to determine the appropriateness of the tests, and concerned about the regulatory industry's use of the test results to reject milk and its affect upon the financial stability of dairy producers.

"The use of antibiotic residue assays (which are tests) in everyday settings and the consequences of current assay performance is

already adversely impacting dairy producers and food animal practices around the United States and elsewhere."

The associate professor said that it is his belief that the tests are not good for what they are being used to do. He said he has found some of them to not be able to distinguish between true antibiotic residues and a cow's natural antibodies in

raw milk.

And, he said he believes that individual dairy producers should not be required to bear the entire cost of the current testing system and the loss of milk based on those tests.

Cullor said that the receiving plants and processors who are using these milk tests to screen for

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Landrace Swine Sweep Breed Show At Allentown

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
ALLENTOWN (Lehigh Co.) —

For the first time in recent memory, Landrace grabbed the limelight at the breed show on Wednesday at the Allentown Fair Swine Show.

A Landrace gilt that "exemplifies how sound" a gilt should really be was picked by judge James Parlett, a York, Chester White, and Duroc breeder from Airville. The gilt, shown by Stephen Wessner for Rocky Acres Farm (operated

by the Harlan and Barbara Wessner family) took big steps and "had a nice groove down the top," said Parlett.

This marks the third year in a row that the Wessners have exhibited a champion animal at the fair. The sire of the gilt was obtained from Wistabrook Farms, from Kentucky, according to Barbara Wessner, Stephen's mother. The dam is from Walker Farms, Mystic, Iowa.

A Landrace also captured supreme boar on Wednesday at the

fair. Exhibited by Grant Lazarus, 17, son of Linda and Grant Lazarus, Germansville, the boar was "big-bodied, lean, long, and extremely sound," said Parlett. The homebred boar was shown by Grant, a senior at Northwestern High School.

Grant and his family have been busy, also attending the N.Y. State Fair and the Sullivan County Fair, he said. They will also be showing at Bloomsburg, Keystone International Livestock Exposition and the state Farm Show.

At the market swine championship show Thursday morning, Parlett picked a purebred Berkshire gilt, the heavyweight champion, as supreme market swine.

Parlett said he chose the Berkshire shown by Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff family as market champion because it was "an extremely clean-bladed hog."

"Packers are looking for bigger hogs that are really lean and have lots of muscling," he said.

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Office Closed Monday

Lancaster Farming's office will be closed on Monday, September 4 to observe Labor Day. Both the advertising and news departments will open again at 8 a.m. on Tuesday.