

# Market Animals Sell Well At Maryland State Fair

TIMONIUM, Md. - Average prices for market hogs were comparable to a year ago at the recent 4-H & FFA livestock sale Sept. 2 here at the Maryland State Fair

This ran counter to the fact that livestock prices at nearby Pennsylvania auction markets are considerably lower than 1997 levels—especially for market hogs and lambs.

Average sale prices for market lambs at the state fair followed the downward trend prevailing at nearby markets, while market steer prices were somewhat higher.

## Market Hogs

Brittany Full of Mount Airy, an 8-year-old, first-year Howard County 4-H member, sold her grand champion market hog for \$11 per pound, the highest Maryland State Fair price in recent memory. Brittany's 250-pound Hampshire crossbred gilt was purchased by "The Squealers," a Sykesville area buyers syndicate, which donated the animal to the state fair livestock sale committee

Two market hogs brought \$3 50 per pound for their owners

Justin Frey, 14, of Williamsport (Washington County) sold his 255-pound Yorkshire-Hampshire barrow to the Stop Construction Company of Madonna (Harford County). Justin's pig won grand champion lean-gain honors at the state fair with an average daily gain of 2 24 pounds.

Jennifer Kirwan, 12, Centerville (Queen Anne's County) sold her 275-pound Hampshire gilt to Nationwide Insurance.

Brittany and Jennifer's

accomplishments illustrated a trend that saw "girls with gilts" combinations bring most of the top prices throughout the sale.

Not counting the grand champion, 25 gilts averaged \$1 64 per pound. This compared

with an average of \$1.52 per pound for 14 barrows and an overall average of \$1.60. Last year's overall sale average was \$1.63 per pound. The 1996 average was \$1.43.



Elizabeth A. Roberts, 15, Bryantown, (Charles County), poses with her grand champion market goat during 4-H & FFA livestock sale on Sept. 2 at the Maryland State Fair in Timonium. Her 70-pound Nubian-Boer crossbred wether was sold for \$3.90 per pound to Coca-Cola Enterprises. Representing the buyer is Chris Farrell, right, district Coca-Cola sales manager at LaPlata. Holding championship banner is Emily O'Hara, 18, of Church Hill (Frederick County), the new Maryland Farm Queen. This was the third consecutive year that Elizabeth had the grand champion 4-H and FFA market goat at the state fair.

**Market Lambs**  
Jesse Rohrer, 16, of Sharpsburg (Washington County), made virtually a clean sweep of top honors in 4-H and FFA sheep competition at the Maryland State Fair. He had the champion ewe in three breeding classes—Hampshire, Shropshire and Suffolk—as well as the champion Shropshire ram. And his champion Suffolk ewe was selected as supreme champion in competition among nine breeding sheep categories.

But Jesse's crowing achievement was winning grand champion honors in the market lamb show with a 125-pound Suffolk

wether. He sold it for \$6 per pound to William F. C. Marlow, Jr., of Towson, a board member of the Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society, and his law partner, Michael Wyatt.

Jesse showed a 120-pound Shropshire wether to reserve champion honors at the state fair last year. It brought \$10 per pound from Wills & Associates, a Baltimore public relations firm.

Two market lambs each brought \$2.60 per pound in this year's sale.

Dora Tammaro, 12, of Cooksville (Howard County) sold her 125-pound Suffolk ewe

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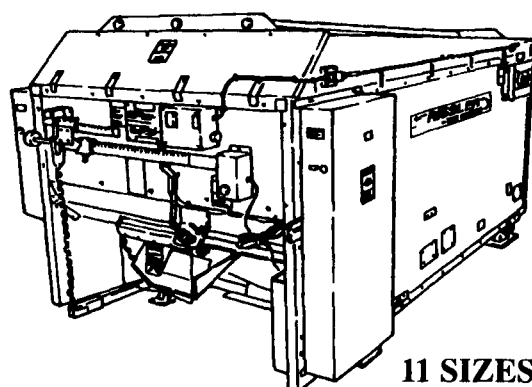
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