

Before Expo, Hog Packer Comments On Year

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ensure producers are following guidelines established by the industry.

Leidy noted that the past year and a half has not been as profitable as in the several years prior. Up until this past September, the company had experienced only two profitable months in 1998 because of lack of product demand, overproduction, and competition.

On Labor Day 1998, the market dropped below 30 cents per pound. He said the company "remained sensitive to producers," indicated by the substantial increases in overages given. When the market "fell apart" in early December, he noted, Leidy's established a floor price of 18 cents.

Soon after, for a few days, the Peoria, Ill. price went to 9-10 cents, and Leidy's changed their own base price to 16 cents.

The last two weeks of December, Leidy's base was set at 23 cents. Since September, Leidy's was able to subsidize their producers more than \$5 per hog.

As of Thursday, the base price was \$27.92 a hundredweight — almost 28 cents a pound base.

Leidy's also pays a bonus depending on carcass evaluation.

At the top of the scale with Thursday's base price, a delivery of a 47 percent lean hog would net the producer \$31.92 a hundredweight (\$26.17 base plus \$1.75 overbase plus an additional \$4 bonus).

The formula comes from the Hennessey system, which provides a premium for value-added

product. The bonus is paid on a graduated scale from a 42 percent to 47 percent lean carcass.

In the coming months, Leidy noted that he does not see any drastic recovery, unless there's "a tremendous amount of promotion of pork," he said. While some have called for more regulation of the retail part of the industry, Leidy was quick to note that regulation doesn't work in a free economy. Supply and demand will continue to dictate prices.

In the meantime, Leidy continues to offer, on a daily basis, advice for producers. A lot of that advice is provided through their hog procurement specialist, Betsy Stoltzfus.

Leidy said producers call Stoltzfus "almost daily" to make decisions on what hogs to finish, when to ship them, and for information on producing the best hogs. Leidy said a lot of their information comes from the specialists in the field, including Penn State.

For producers who want more information about where the industry is headed and how to spruce up on their management skills, there is always the Pork Expo.

The 21st annual Keystone Pork Expo is scheduled next Wednesday, Feb. 10, at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center here at the Lebanon Fairgrounds.

This year's Expo will feature a trade show with more than 40 exhibits and educational seminars for producers.

The Expo will once again sponsor a Pork Bowl contest and public speaking competition for FFA and

4-H members.

Dr. Scott Dee, an international authority on Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), will provide producers with strategies for controlling PRRS in the herd. Dee has been in private practice for several years and recently accepted a position at the University of Minnesota. His insight on PRRS has been appreciated by swine producers nationwide.

Hugh Archer, deputy secretary for water management with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), will speak on new regulatory developments. The past year has been one of new regulations on local, state, and national levels. Archer has gained respect from both producer and environmental groups for his balanced perspective and his willingness to find common solutions to concerns of large-scale agriculture.

Lou Moore, Penn State professor of agricultural economics and continuing Pork Expo favorite, will deliver his hog market outlook.

Bob Mikesell, senior extension associate at Penn State, will explain the On-Farm Odor and Environmental Assessment program he coordinates for Pennsylvania. This program, being initiated throughout the country, is sponsored by the national and Pennsylvania pork producers councils. It provides producers with an opportunity for an in-depth environmental assessment of their operations.

At the Expo will be the annual Legislative Activity Fund Auction

in the West Hall. Various items will go to silent bidding. The silent bidding closes Wednesday at 1 p.m.

The junior public speaking contest begins in the West Hall at 9:30 a.m. for ages 16-19 and ages 12-15. The contest for 8-11 year-olds begins at 12:30 p.m.

The Keystone Pork Bowl begins in the West Hall at 9:30 a.m. with preliminary eliminations. Final eliminations begin at 2 p.m.

There will be complimentary coffee and doughnuts.

Keystone Pork Expo programs are available in most county extension offices.

PRODUCERS PROGRAM

TRADE SHOW

North Hall

8 00 am Registration Doors Open to Trade Show

MORNING SEMINARS

West Hall

Presiding - Ken Kephart

9 00 am Welcome Ken Kephart

9 15 am Market Outlook Lou Moore

10 00 am New Developments In DEP Regulations Hugh Archer

10 30 am PRRS Management Strategies Scott Dee

11 15 am On Farm Odor and Environmental Assessment Robert Mikesell

11 45 am NPPC Programs for Demand Enhancement

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY FUND AUCTION

West Hall

Presiding Dale Martin

1 00 pm Silent Bidding Closes

1 30 pm Announcement of Silent Auction Winners

JR. PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

West Hall

Presiding - Bruce Lemmon

9 30 am Ages 16 19 Ages 12 15

12 30 pm Ages 8 11

KEYSTONE PORK BOWL

Sponsored by Hatfield Quality Meats

West Hall

Presiding - Linda Spahr

9 30 am Preliminary Eliminations

2 00 pm Final Eliminations

Coffee and

Doughnuts Sponsored

by

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3000	E Honda	General	\$1,095.00
3500	E Honda	Car	\$1,475.00
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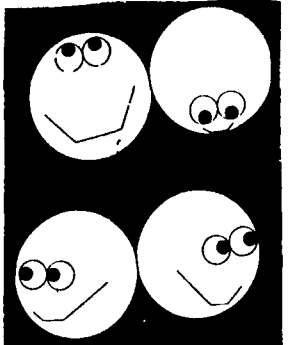
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