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Lancaster Farming

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Swine Industry Advances Pseudorabies-Free Pursuit

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture Secretary Samuel E. Hayes Jr. announced that Pennsylvania has moved one step closer to achieving pseudorabies-free status for its swine industry.

"Because of the tireless efforts of many, we have made another stride to ensure the health of our swine herds and the economic viability of a key component of Pennsylvania agriculture," Hayes said.

Pseudorabies is a viral infection of swine that primarily affects the central nervous and reproductive systems, causing loss of efficiency and production, and increased costs.

Hayes said that Pennsylvania has advanced to Stage IV (surveillance) of a five-stage process to monitor the eradication of pseudorabies from Pennsylvania's swine herds.

The designation is based on an absence of the disease in the state and a commitment to maintain stringent control measures to pre-

vent reintroduction.

Under a National Cooperative State-Federal-Industry Eradication Program, Pennsylvania participates in an aggressive testing program for all high-risk herds, including continuous flow feed lots and herds within a two-mile radius of previously infected herds.

Pennsylvania will be able to advance to Stage V, pseudorabies-free, in one year if the disease is not diagnosed in the state and if all other provisions of its Stage IV status continue to be met.

Today's announcement comes just one year after Secretary Hayes announced a new initiative to achieve state pseudorabies-free status, which will increase the ability of Pennsylvania producers to export pigs and ease certain testing requirements for movement of hogs within the commonwealth.

The disease poses no threat to

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Pennsylvania Alternate Dairy Princess Megan Meyers and her parents, Ed and Diana Meyers, farm in St. Thomas, Franklin County. Turn to page B6 to read about the Meyers family and about the trait that used to get Megan into trouble but has become a great advantage to dairy promotion. Photo by Lou Ann Good.



Wednesday evening at the Kimberton Fair, the Weitzels, including wife Melissa and son James and daughter Felicia, picked up champion of the Suffolk ewes. From left, Melissa Weitzel, James Weitzel (in front), Greg Weitzel, Felicia Weitzel, judge Rod Gilbert, and Walter Ernst, holding the champion ram. Photo by Andy Andrews

Reist Shows Supreme Champion Animal Of Lebanon Area Fair Youth Shows

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
 Lancaster Farming Staff
 NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) — Kendra Reist of Lebanon on Tuesday exhibited the supreme champion dairy animal of the Lebanon Area Fair youth division dairy shows.

Her bred and owned senior 3-year-old Ken-Joda Merrill Dana

was selected supreme by Holstein breed judge Ray Seidel of Kutztown, from among the 4-H and FFA grand champions of the five breeds exhibited.

It was the first supreme championship for Reist, who has been exhibiting at the Lebanon Fair for several years.

Holstein competition in the ring

was from Kurt Hostetter of Annville with his bred and owned FFA division grand champion Holstein, and aged cow, Dale-Pride Black Beauty.

Also in contention were a 4-H grand champion Guernsey, 3-year-old Liseter Farm Nobles Laura, exhibited by Andrew Ebersole of

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Kimberton Fair Names Sheep Champions

ANDY ANDREWS
 Lancaster Farming Staff
 KIMBERTON (Chester Co.) — "The judge told us he really likes the lamb," said Greg Weitzel.

Moments before, Weitzel watched as his family helped show the yearling Suffolk ewe to champion of her breed. "He told us we should bring some more."

Wednesday evening at the Kimberton Fair, the Weitzels, including wife Melissa and son James and daughter Felicia, picked up champion of the Suffolk ewes.

Judge for the show at the Kimberton Fairgrounds was Rod Gilbert, assistant professor of animal science at Delaware Valley Col-

lege, Doylestown.

The Weitzels, Sinking Springs, have shown at the fair before. They will show at Schuylkill County, Goshen, and Allentown fairs.

Walter Ernst, Reading, won grand champion ram in the Suffolk division Wednesday evening at the fair.

In all, 25 exhibitors brought about 48 sheep to the show ring Wednesday evening. The remainder of the sheep show concludes today with about 85 head.

In the Oxford division, Jacob Garges, 17, son of Eileen and Paul Garges, Telford, swept the Oxford show with his champion ram lamb

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The supreme champion of the Lebanon Area Fair youth division dairy shows is shown by, from the left, county Dairy Maid Hannah Bomgardner, county Alternate Dairy Princess Amy Burkhart, county Li'L Dairy Princess Sarah and Lydia Smith, Kendra Reist with her champion, and trophy sponsors the Dale and Pattie Maulfair family — Dale, Daryl, Jennifer, David and Pattie — and judge Raymond Seidel.