

Lazarus Family Celebrates 45 Years At Allentown With Sweep Of Swine Breeds

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ALLENTOWN (Lehigh Co.) — Donna Strawbridge, daughter of Calvin Lazarus II, was ready to break out the balloons.

Strawbridge was trumpeting the family's 45 years of showing at the Allentown Fair.

And what a way to celebrate, holding up the two large banners for supreme champion boar and supreme gilt late last week at the fair.

Judge Doyle Stepp, Wartrace, Tenn., selected the Duroc February boar shown by Calvin over all boars and breeds the previous day for an excellent representative sample of what makes a boar critical to a breeding program.

Then Stepp, a purebred Yorkshire and Hampshire breeder, selected the Hampshire February gilt as supreme gilt, shown by Donna's son, John.

John, 15, Whitehall, is in the 10th grade at Whitehall High School. John noted that he exercises the homebred gilt about 2-3 times per week.

Both hogs will be taken in October to compete at the Keystone International Livestock Expo (KILE) at the Harrisburg Farm Show Complex.

John has shown at a variety of fairs, including Schuylkill County, Kempton, Kutztown, Pennsylvania Fair, and will be showing at Bloomsburg, KILE, and state Farm Show.

Calvin remarked on the family's success in the 45 years of exhibiting at Allentown.

One year, he said, about 15 years ago, the family took home "all three champions," including

market and breed. "That same year we had one or two taking champion at the New York State Fair — the same week!"

To Lazarus, the championship is especially meaningful this year because of the devastating times swine breeders and finishers had to endure in the hog industry and with two droughts in a row. He's been farming for 60 years, he said, and the past two years "were the worst I've seen," he said.

For family farms, "the future looks terrible," Lazarus said. "There's no room for young guys."

He said many farm families are forced to sell a part of the farm so there are enough finances to get young farmers started. And the two terrible calamities — the lowest hog prices in history and the drought — are making it extremely difficult to farm.

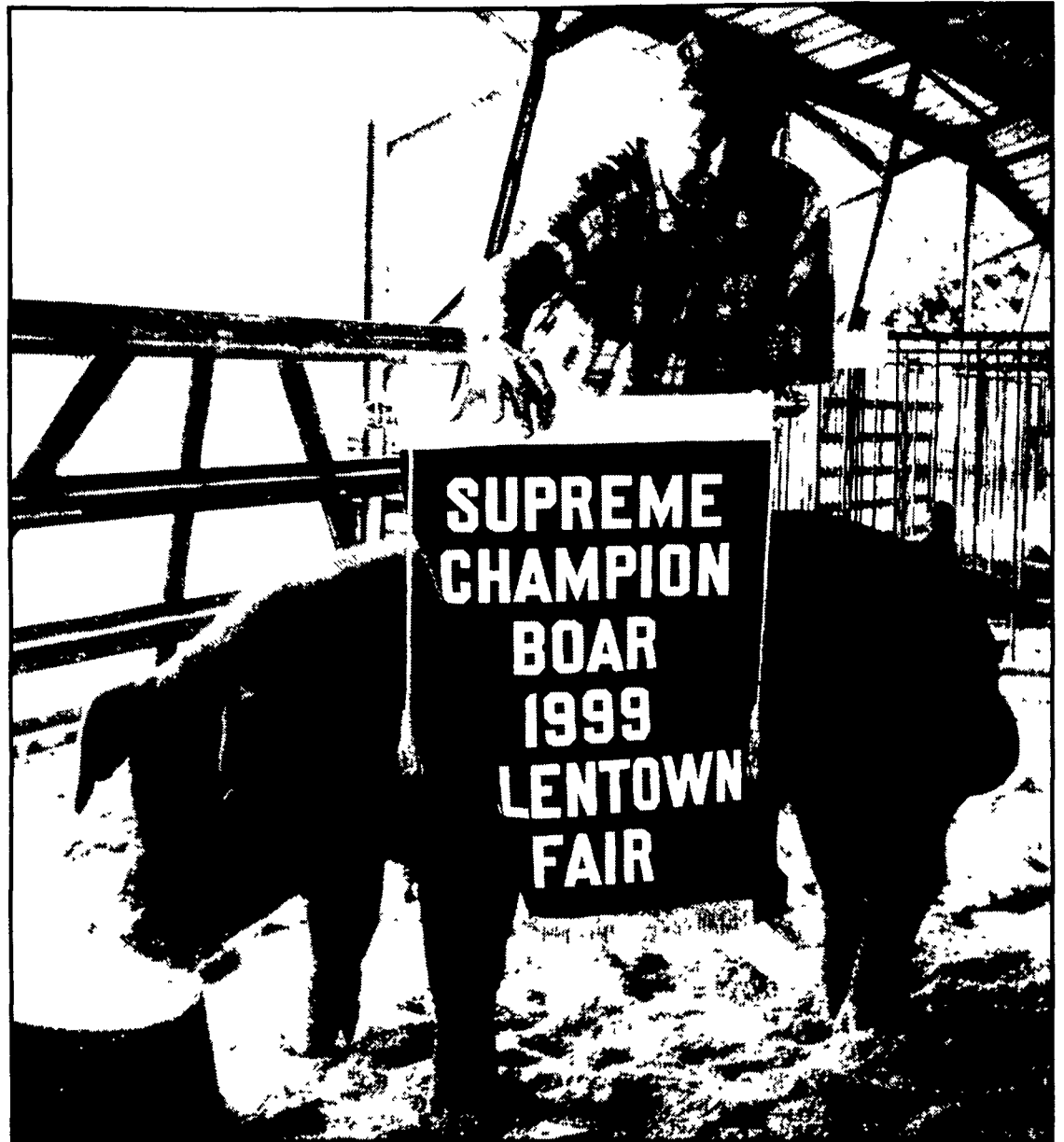
Lazarus farms a total of about 1,000 acres. This year, about 200-300 acres, he said, may go unharvested simply because, unless they can harvest 15-20 bushels per acre, it's simply not worth it.

"You can't think about it too long," he said. "It's crazy."

Nonetheless, Lazarus said it is quite an accomplishment to bring competitive, quality hogs to the show year after year.

In the market hog show, for the first time the Allentown market champion banner went to Todd Bennecoff Jr. Todd, 11, is the son of Todd Sr. and Cheryl Bennecoff, Kutztown.

Todd, in the sixth grade at Northwestern Middle School, showed the heavyweight champion, a Duroc/Hampshire crossbred gilt, to supreme market hog.



Calvin Lazarus of Lazarus and Sons won supreme champion boar with this Duroc at the Allentown Fair.

This is the first market hog champion at Allentown for Todd.



Todd Bennecoff Jr., left, won supreme market hog champion last week at Allentown. At right is Doyle Stepp, Wartrace, Tenn., judge.

He has won breed champions in the past several years.

When picking the 295-pound champion heavyweight, judge Doyle Stepp admired the "super-long gilt, a level and long gilt with a lot of dimension, a lot of width underneath, with a lot of ham," he said. "She has a really good design for a market hog."

When picking the hog supreme champion, Stepp noted the gilt was "well-balanced, a super long-sided pig with a lot of foot to her." The hog would have a good loin eye, according to the judge.

Todd has exhibited hogs at Kempton and Schnecksville, in addition to the Pennsylvania Fair. He plans to show at the county roundup, Sullivan County Fair, Bloomsburg, York, KILE, and Farm Show.

At the hog show there were a total of 356 hogs, about 279 breed animals and 77 market swine. There were 37 exhibitors.

Following is a list of show placings.

ALLENTOWN FAIR SWINE SHOW RESULTS

BREEDS OPEN BERKS

- January Boar: 1. Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff.
- February Boar: 1. Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff. 2. Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff. 3. Amy Bennecoff.
- March Boar: 1. Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff. 2. Todd Lee Bennecoff Jr. 3. Todd Lee Bennecoff Jr.
- April Boar: 1. Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff. 2. Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff.
- Champion Boar: Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff. Reserve: Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff.
- January Gilt: 1. Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff. 2. Todd Lee Bennecoff Jr. 3. Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff.
- February Gilt: 1. Todd Lee Bennecoff Jr. 2. Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff. 3. Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff.
- March Gilt: 1. Todd Lee Bennecoff Jr. 2. Todd Lee Bennecoff Jr. 3. Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff.
- April Gilt: Todd Lee Bennecoff Jr. 2. Todd

and Cheryl Bennecoff. 3. Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff.

Champion Gilt: Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff. Reserve: Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff. Young Herd: 1. Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff. 2. Todd Lee Bennecoff Jr.

Produce of Dam: 1. Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff. 2. Todd Lee Bennecoff Jr. Get of Sire: 1. Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff. 2. Todd Lee Bennecoff Jr.

Pair of Gilt: 1. Todd and Cheryl Bennecoff. 2. Todd Lee Bennecoff Jr. Amy Bennecoff.

CHESTER WHITE

January Boar: 1. Scott Lazarus. 2. Daniel Billig. 3. Scott Lazarus.

February Boar: 1. Daniel Billig. 2. Scott Lazarus. 3. Scott Lazarus.

March Boar: 1. Scott Lazarus. 2. George Billig. 3. Daniel Billig.

April Boar: 1. Scott Lazarus. 2. Scott Lazarus.

Champion Boar: Daniel Billig. Reserve: Scott Lazarus.

January Gilt: 1. Daniel Billig. 2. Daniel Billig. 3. Scott Lazarus.

February Gilt: 1. Daniel Billig. 2. Daniel Billig. 3. Scott Lazarus.

March Gilt: 1. Scott Lazarus. 2. Scott Lazarus. 3. George Billig.

Champion Gilt: Daniel Billig. Reserve: Scott Lazarus.

Young Herd: 1. Daniel Billig. 2. Scott Lazarus.

Produce of Dam: 1. Scott Lazarus. 2. Daniel Billig.

Get of Sire: 1. Scott Lazarus. 2. Daniel Billig.

Pair of Gilt: 1. Daniel Billig. 2. Scott Lazarus. 3. George Billig.

DUROC

January Boar: 1. Amy Bennecoff 2. Calvin Lazarus and Sons 3. Jared Treichler.

February Boar: 1. Calvin Lazarus and Sons. 2. Calvin Lazarus and Sons 3. Todd Lee Bennecoff Jr.

March Boar: 1. Timothy A. Billig. 2. Jared Treichler. 3. Timothy A. Billig.

April Boar: 1. Jared Treichler. 2. Jared Treichler.

Champion Boar: Calvin Lazarus and Sons. Reserve: Timothy A. Billig.

January Gilt: 1. Todd Lee Bennecoff Jr. 2. Calvin Lazarus and Sons. 3. Amy Bennecoff.

February Gilt: 1. Jared Treichler. 2. Todd Lee Bennecoff Jr. 3. Amy Bennecoff.

March Gilt: 1. Calvin Lazarus and Sons. 2. John Strawbridge. 3. Calvin Lazarus and Sons.

April Gilt: 1. Jared Treichler. 2. Calvin Lazarus and Sons 3. Jared Treichler.

Champion Gilt: Todd Lee Bennecoff Jr. Reserve: Jared Treichler.

Young Herd: 1. Calvin Lazarus and Sons. 2. Jared Treichler. 3. Todd Lee Bennecoff Jr.

Produce of Dam: 1. Jared Treichler. 2. Cal-

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