

First-Time Champions For Both Denver Swine Exhibitors

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

DENVER (Lancaster Co.) — Gary Martin and Renee Hoover both had something to celebrate on a gloomy day Tuesday.

Though the pall from the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history was felt by all, they both managed to capture their first championship ribbons at the Denver Fair Hog Show.

Gary Martin, 20, son of Clarence and Marilyn Martin, New Holland, exhibited a 240-pound Yorkshire crossbred gilt to grand champion.

Nicknamed "Frisky," judge Kent Good said "everything stands out about the hog - it's free-moving, clean up in the jowl and chest, is very lean, with a nice rump and nice set of loins."

Gary's first champion ribbon at Denver was obtained by showing a hog he obtained from a private sale in Maryland. He is a 2000 graduate of Garden Spot and Brownstown Vo-Tech, and works as a crewman/driver at Conestoga Pole Building.

Reserve champion, a gilt which Good liked because of its "tremendous length and movement," was a 255-pound Duroc crossbred exhibited by Renee Hoover.

Renee, 18, is the daughter of Marty and Lois Hoover, Schoeneck. The 2001 Cocalico High School graduate said she was happy to have a champion on her last year of showing at the fair. She exhibited a homebred hog, which she exercised every day.

There were 26 hogs and 11 exhibitors.

Following is a list of show placings.

DENVER FAIR SWINE SHOW RESULTS

Class 1 (225-227 lbs.): 1. Gerald Martin 2. Sarah Boyd 3. Gerald Martin

Class 2 (230-235 lbs.): 1. Gary Martin 2. Sarah Boyd 3. Chelsea Hoover.

Class 3 (240-247 lbs.): 1. Gary Martin 2. Jenny Hughes 3. Willis Hoover

Class 4 (245-255 lbs.): 1. Jenny Hughes 2. Jason Martin 3. Wesley Hoover

Class 5 (253-260 lbs.): 1. Renee Hoover 2. Jenny Hughes 3. Wesley Hoover

Class 6 (265-270 lbs.): 1. Willis Hoover 2. Sarah Boyd 3. Justin Martin

Class 7 (280-285 lbs.): 1. Jonathan Rupert 2. Jonathan Rupert.

GRAND CHAMPION

Gary Martin

RESERVE

Renee Hoover

SHOWMANSHIP

16 And Over: 1. Sarah Boyd 2. Gary Martin 3. Renee Hoover.

12-15 Year Olds: 1. Jenny Hughes 2. Wesley Hoover 3. Chelsea Hoover

11 & Under: 1. Willis Hoover

CHAMPION

Sarah Boyd



Gary Martin, right, won grand champion hog Tuesday evening at Denver Fair. Kent Good judged the show.



Renee Hoover, right, won reserve champion hog at Denver Fair. Judge for the show was Kent Good.

We Salute Our Farming Industry

Can Farms Survive Phosphorous-Based Nutrient Planning?

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — If the state nutrient management board performs a review of the current nutrient management act and decides to adopt a phosphorous-based plan, farmers are likely to need two to three times the land base to accommodate the manure they apply now.

That was the message given to about three dozen poultry producers and agri-industry representatives Monday at the Penn State-sponsored Poultry Health and Management Seminar at Kreider's Restaurant in Manheim.

Jerry Martin, dairy/environment agent at the Lancaster County extension office, said that the current Act 6 will be up for possible review in 2002. The USDA Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) adopted proposal is to consider phosphorous site index planning for the state.

Martin spoke about regulatory changes facing Pennsylvania farmers and "what we can do to anticipate changes and prepare for them," he said.

A USDA/EPA Unified National Strategy was proposed in March 1999 that could have great impact on animal operations in the state. One such proposal under consideration is subjecting "anyone with confined animal operations," Martin said, to provisions to have some type of nutrient management plan.

For the poultry industry, however, what has been considered, during a review period for proposed changes to federal water quality rules for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), is that all poultry operations are under the CAFO regulations. Co-permitting could also have significant impact for poultry producers and those in the industry.

The EPA invited comments from the proposed CAFO rules until the end of July this year. The agency is scheduled to release final regulations on Dec. 15, 2002. Those regulations may not be published until January 2003, Martin noted.

These regulations "could have significant impacts on all ag producers," Martin said. "What can we do to prepare?"

Right now, the unified strategy has looked closely at the phosphorous site index, based on research at the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Pasture Lab Farm in Klingerstown, Schuylkill County. The lab discovered, on a watershed basis, that 90 percent of phosphorous leaves a watershed from 10 percent of a land area. A small amount of land could contribute to a lot of phosphorous loss.

The site index would take a look at potential high source areas, identify them, and nutrient management plans would have to be in place to manage them.

Pressure could be exerted on Act 6, the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Act written in May 1993 and put into affect Oct. 1, 1997, to include phosphorous-based planning.

A requirement was that the State Conservation Commission must review CAO status and criteria at the five-year anniversary of the plan's enactment — which occurs in 2002.

Oct. 1, 2002 marks five years. "What's going to happen?" Martin said. "I have no idea."

Regulators could lower the an-



Jerry Martin, Lancaster County dairy/environment agent, left, with Paul Patterson, with the Penn State poultry science department.



Dr. Robert Elkin, professor and head of the Penn State Department of Poultry Science, right, introduces Phillip Clauer, new senior extension associate of the department.

imal density formula from 2 to 1.75 or 1.5. And how does that affect farms that soil test high or off the charts for phosphorous already? They would be faced with having to route the manure away from those fields or off the farm entirely.

Discussion will continue for some time at the review date. Martin noted while some can speculate, it is like "trying to read the crystal ball," when so many factors have to be considered, he noted.

From a federal standpoint, storage and confinement areas would be under tougher regulations to ensure they could contain material from a 25-year, 24-hour storm. That would entail "no release of nutrients, period," said Martin.

Producers would take note to identify, now, how water travels through their farm, and to ensure they have current and implemented conservation and nutri-

ent management plans. Right now would be a good time to get the soil test, and soil test on a regular basis (every three years), to identify fields "near or more than 200 parts per million of phosphorous," according to Martin.

If a phosphorous-based plan is implemented, producers would also have to evaluate and improve water flow on the farm, including identifying streams, waterways, ditches, terrace outlets, and subsurface drainage. They would have to identify fields within 100 feet of surface water or 150 feet of a stream.

"These are things to do to get a handle on the potential for how this may impact you down the road," Martin said.

But the plan raises concerns, because if phosphorous-based planning is implemented, it "could kill our ag industry in Lancaster County if we get too stringent with phosphorous," according to Martin.