

Over 1,000 Buyers Registered At Record-Breaking Swine Sale

DUNCAN, Okla. — More than 500 purebred swine breeders gathered from 21 states for the biggest show and sale of the year in Duncan, Okla., Nov. 15-17. These breeders exhibited nearly 650 head of breeding stock and 1,375 weanling pigs.

During the sales, 1,050 buyer numbers were dispersed to a record crowd of 2,500. This historic event rewarded breeders for their efforts to create a better product, as 885 hogs sold for \$960,725. The 2001 Fall Classic shows and sales proved to all that the purebred industry is thriving.

The highlight of this event occurred during the Hampshire boar sale when Dean Myhre, Caledonia, Minn., sold his grand champion boar for \$45,000 to Larrie and Theresa Moyers, Newcastle, Okla. This boar is the June 4 son of SNMHO Wallstreet 18-9. The reserve champion Hampshire boar, exhibited by S&M Hamps, Caledonia, Minn., was purchased by Lean Value Sires of Elizabethtown, Ohio, for \$17,000.

Bill Grubbs, Haileyville, Okla., purchased the champion Hampshire gilt from Michael Cowan, Beason, Ill., for \$2,600. The reserve champion Hampshire gilt and top-selling gilt overall bred by Howell Brothers, Sidney, Ohio, sold for \$14,500 to J&K Genetics, Shipshewana, Ind., and Hi Point Genetics, Chrisman, Ill.

Kevin Wendt, Green Springs, Ohio, auctioneered this record Hampshire sale that totaled \$365,100 with a \$3,094 average on 118 head.

During the Yorkshire sale, Chuck Olsen, Irene, S.D., sold his champion Yorkshire boar and top-selling Yorkshire boar overall for \$8,700 to Farrer Stock Farms, Royal Center, Ind. The reserve champion Yorkshire boar, exhibited by Brad Bates, West Mansfield, Ohio, sold for \$1,750 to Steve Cobb, Lake City, Ark.

In the Yorkshire gilt sale, Creager Farms, Wauseon, Ohio sold their champion Yorkshire gilt for \$5,000 to Randy Nation, Hopeton, Okla. The reserve champion Yorkshire gilt, exhibited by Chuck Olsen, Irene, S.D., sold to Carl Schillinger Jr. and family, Evansville, Ind., for \$2,500. The top-selling Yorkshire female was shown by Brad Bates, West Mansfield, Ohio. This popular gilt sold for \$5,500 to Clayton and Curtis Fisher, Omega, Okla.

The Yorkshire sale, auctioneered by Dan Baker, West Lafayette, Ind., brought in \$117,450 on 134 pigs, resulting in a \$876 average.

The Duroc sale led off with Huinker Durocs Ltd.'s champion Duroc boar that sold for \$2,100 to Crouch & Curry Swine Genetics, Brownsville, Texas. Huinker is from Decorah, Iowa. Parrish Farms, Edon, Ohio, followed with their reserve champion Duroc boar that sold for \$3,000 to Denny Hansard, Shafer, Calif. The top-selling Duroc boar was exhibited by Kent Brattain and family, Greencastle, Ind., and sold for \$7,500 to Hi Point Genetics.

The champion Duroc gilt exhibited by Guy Jackson, Warren, Ind., sold to Ronald Holley, Bridgeport, Texas, for \$1,600. Jackson also exhibited the reserve champion gilt that sold to Jeff Oliver, West Point, Ind., for \$2,000. Parrish Farms exhibited the top-selling gilt for

\$2,100 to Goldsmith Farms, Williamsport, Ohio. The Duroc sale was auctioneered by Howard Parrish, Edon, Ohio. He sold 45 Durocs for \$51,650, resulting in a \$1,148 average.

In the Landrace sale ring, the grand champion boar bred by Autumn Rose LLC, Kirkline, Ind., sold for \$3,400 to Swine Genetics International, Cambridge, Iowa. The champion Landrace gilt sold for \$1,250 to Curtis Schwartz, San Angelo, Texas. This gilt was exhibited by Seth Swenson, Chatsworth, Ill. The reserve champion Landrace gilt was shown by Swenson. She sold for \$850 to Schwartz Livestock, San Angelo, Texas, for \$850.

The Landrace sale, auctioneered by Howard Parrish, brought in \$6,000 from five head, averaging \$1,200 per pig.

By the end of the afternoon on Friday, all seats and standing room were occupied by bidders and observers alike waiting for the female weanling pig sale. The Champion female weanling pig and champion dark cross-

bred was exhibited by Daniel Weber, Chatsworth, Ill. This top-selling female sold for \$3,000 to Brad Bechter, Blackwell, Okla. The reserve champion female weanling pig and champion light crossbred was exhibited by Nick and Neil Mauck, Gaston, Ind. She sold for \$2,250 to Larrie and Theresa Moyers, Newcastle, Okla. The female weanling pig sale totaled \$167,700 with 305 pigs averaging \$550.

In the male weanling pig sale, the champion overall was exhibited by Kristen Knight, Plains, Texas. This male, first named champion Yorkshire, sold for \$9,000 to Randal Buck, Eufaula, Okla. The reserve champion overall sold for \$14,000 to Lean Value Sires, Elizabethtown, Ohio. This male exhibited by Huinker Durocs Ltd., was first named champion Duroc. The top-selling male pig brought \$16,000. This pig was exhibited by Michael Delon and sold to Lifeline Genetics, Newcastle, Okla. The male weanling pig sale totaled \$253,425 with 280 pigs averaging \$905.

Penn State And Game Commission Launch Ground- Breaking Deer Research

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences and the Pennsylvania Game Commission recently launched one of the most extensive radio-telemetry studies of male deer dispersal, survival and the effects of antler restrictions for hunting ever attempted in the U.S.

"Pennsylvania's deer management program is evolving," says Dr. Gary Alt, game commission deer management section supervisor. "Knowledge gained from this three-year study, which will attempt to monitor 600 bucks in two study areas, will not only further scientific understanding of deer behavior, but also will provide a credible foundation for Pennsylvania's deer management regulations."

"This study should answer two important questions: Will antler restrictions result in greater numbers of older bucks? And, do hunters perceive there are better hunting opportunities?"

Dr. Duane R. Diefenbach, assistant unit leader for the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, based at Penn State, noted that the project should yield a wealth of additional important information about the state's bucks.

"We look forward to learning more about buck activity and movement patterns, antler size changes and antler rubbing and scraping behavior," he says. "And, all of this research data collection can be done without having a negative effect on hunters. In fact, radio-tagged deer are legal to harvest, and we encourage hunters to take the opportunity to do so. All we ask is that they call the toll-free number on the transmitter or ear tag so that we can gain further valuable information about

that deer."

Over the next three years, researchers intend to monitor 200 bucks per year in Armstrong and Centre counties. The bucks will be captured and fitted with radio-transmitters by game commission biologists and Penn State graduate students. Deer will be captured using a variety of methods, including drop nets, walk-in traps, dart guns and helicopters.

Helicopter captures are being conducted by Hawkins & Powers Aviation Inc., based in Greybull, Wyo. The company has been involved with other helicopter wildlife capture programs for moose, elk and wolves.

Specific project objectives are:

- Determine the survival of bucks from six months to 30 months of age. How many bucks do hunters harvest, what are other causes of mortality and are there regulation changes that might increase buck survival? Combined with the two-year joint Penn State-Game Commission fawn mortality study, this objective should shed additional light on mortality causes for deer.

- Monitor movements of bucks from six months to 30 months of age. How far do bucks disperse, when do they disperse and how many disperse?

- Monitor changes in male age structure because of antler restrictions. How does age affect antler size and how does breeding behavior change? Data already collected from studies in other states show that bucks grow their greatest sets of antlers between the ages of four and eight years. Other studies suggest that age and quality of habitat (nutrition) play significant roles in antler development, as do genetics.

- Evaluate hunter satisfaction with antler restrictions.

National Sustainable Agriculture Conference Set For North Carolina

GRIFFIN, Ga. — North Carolina has been selected as the site of a national sustainable agriculture conference Oct. 23-26, 2002.

On The Road to Sustainable Agriculture is the name of a rolling conference to be sponsored by the Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE) in and around Raleigh-Durham. The event will arm farmers and rural communities with profitable solutions to the challenges of a changing agricultural landscape.

Participants will view some of that changing landscape through the windows of comfortable chartered buses as they travel to some of the most exciting farms, markets and research sites in the country. There will be plenty of small group interaction and one-on-one conversation as the conference rolls through land that was first farmed in the 1620s when Virginia planters moved south in search of new ground for tobacco. Today North Carolina is one of the most diversified agriculture states in the nation with 57,000 farmers growing 80 dif-

ferent crops and contributing \$46 billion annually to the economy.

Because of its long agricultural history, many national farm problems first became evident in North Carolina. Likewise, many solutions have been discovered by innovative North Carolina farmers and researchers. Continued research has helped sustain agriculture as the state's number one industry. In fact researchers, extension agents, producers and grassroots organizations in North Carolina have conducted

166 SARE projects, far more than any other southern state, making it the prime site for a national conference. That research will be highlighted on the tours and during sessions at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center in Durham.

A committee is currently evaluating more than 100 farms, markets and research sites to find the best mix of tour stops. More details will be released as speakers and tour stops are confirmed. For updates visit the Southern SARE Website at <http://www.griffin.peachnet.edu/sare> or call Gwen Roland at (770) 412-4786.

Free Brochure Offered On CAFO Proposals

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalizes major changes to its farming and water quality regulations for large-scale animal operations, Penn State Cooperative Extension specialists have prepared a new fact sheet to help citizens take advantage of a new opportunity for public input.

"Shaping New EPA CAFO Rules: A Guide to the EPA's November 2001 Notice of Data Availability," is a fact sheet authored by Charles Abdalla, associate professor of agricultural economics, and Alyssa Dodd, extension associate in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. The publication explains the EPA's request for public feedback on regulations for large-scale animal agriculture or concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO).

Based on comments received during an initial comment period for proposed changes (which ended in July 2001), EPA established an additional opportunity for public comment on specific aspects of the proposed CAFO rule through Jan. 15, 2002. The fact sheet addresses key areas for comment, how to obtain a copy of the notice and tips for preparing and submitting comments.

"People involved in animal agriculture — farmers, agribusiness, feed suppliers, processors

and related businesses — will find the fact sheet useful, as will public decision-makers, elected officials and anyone interested in water quality and the environment," Abdalla says. "Township officials, for instance, need to know how the coming federal requirements will affect them."

"This additional public participation opportunity is specific to the comments and data received during the initial comment period for the proposed changes prior to July 2001," he explains. "Responders should be sure to focus on the 19 specific areas where the agency is soliciting comments. EPA is not seeking general comments on the proposed rule."

Abdalla says that the EPA's willingness to hear from all sources provides citizens with an extraordinary opportunity to take part in important public policymaking. "Everyone benefits from broader public participation, as it stimulates discussion and more perspectives," he says. "These are complex issues."

Copies of the fact sheet are available as an electronic PDF file on the Web at <http://agenvpolicy.aers.psu.edu/CAFO/NODA.htm>. To receive a paper copy or for further information, contact Abdalla at (814) 865-2562 or CABdalla@psu.edu or Alyssa Dodd at (814) 863-5884 or ard108@psu.edu.



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