



Performance Tested Boar Sale

PENNSYLVANIA FURNACE (Huntingdon Co.) — The state's 28th Performance Tested Boar Sale is scheduled Wednesday, Aug. 20, at 6 p.m. here at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's New Livestock Evaluation Center.

There are 58 boars consigned from various Pennsylvania producers for the 2003 Boar Test. Out of these 58 boars, there are 40 Yorkshires, six Berkshires, five Durocs, three Hampshires, and three crossbred boars.

In conjunction with this year's Boar Test, there are 14 gilts on test. Out of these 14 gilts there are 13 Yorkshires, one crossbred.

The new gilt test has been an interesting addition to the summer boar test. This year's boar test began in the New Livestock Evaluation Center's hog facility. This new building allowed for a great deal more temperature and ventilation control than in past tests.

The pen space available to the boars and gilts is also larger, allowing more freedom of movement and space for exercise.

Throughout the tests the animals are weighed every 14 days and evaluated on feed consumption. Upon completing the test, each group of animals is ultrasonically scanned to measure loin eye area, fat thickness, and percent lean muscle.

Feed efficiency is extremely important to producers interested in increasing profitability in their own operation. In addition to weight gain and muscling the hogs, sheep, goats, and bulls tested at the facility are evaluated on soundness and breeding ability.

Soundness is a measurement of the physical condition of an animal. When an animal is sound, it stands and walks correctly and shows no signs of detrimental movement problems. Of all species tested, soundness is probably the most critical in the swine industry because of the confinement conditions prevalent in the industry.

After these animals complete test, professionals from within each species interest will designate which animals will be quality sires from their specific breeds and can be sold to other livestock producers interested in advancing their own herd or flock.

Livestock production is a competitive and consumer-driven industry, and the constant advancement of genetics is necessary to the profitability of the farms and producers involved in livestock production.

The first-ever performance-tested gilt sale and the planned dedication of the new Livestock Evaluation Center takes place at 2 p.m. the same day. The location next to Ag Progress Days, which will be in full swing Wednesday, Aug. 20, will also enhance attendance.

For more specific information about the boars and gilts or to request a catalog or information on any of Pennsylvania's performance testing programs, contact Glenn Eberly, Livestock Evaluation Center, 1494 West Pine Grove Rd., Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865, by phone at (814) 238-2527, (814) 238-2307, or by e-mail at geberly@state.pa.us.

Dairy Promotion Groups Work Together At Ag Progress Days

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Dairy farmers are invited to the 2003 Ag Progress Days to learn more about how dairy checkoff programs help increase demand for dairy products.

The Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program, the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council Mid-East, and the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association will host a joint exhibit at the annual event, Aug. 19-21, at Ag progress Days, Rockspring.

All dairy farmers and those affiliated with the dairy industry are invited to visit the joint exhibit in the Dairy and Livestock Tent #1 to learn more about both local and national dairy promotion efforts, including 3-A-Day of Dairy, milk vending, and more.

Pennsylvania dairy farmers are also invited to a free luncheon and informational meeting hosted by PDPP at noon, Thursday, Aug. 21, in the Special Events Building at Ag Progress Days. This will serve as the annual meeting for PDPP and will be a great opportunity for farmers to hear more about new dairy promotion initiatives.

Bid On Antiques, Meats At Silent Auction

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — Early Christmas shopping and bargain hunting can be combined when the Pasto Agricultural Museum conducts its fourth silent auction during the first two days of Penn State's Ag Progress Days, Aug. 19-20.

About 150 items — including Penn State/Ohio State football tickets, a new John Deere lawn tractor, and a new Massey Ferguson tractor blade — have been donated, according to museum volunteer curator Darwin Braund.

"Buyers will find items to meet practically any interest, need, and checking account," said Braund. "Donors have been generous in supplying a wide variety of useful items to help generate funds to preserve the rich heritage of agriculture and rural living. Proceeds will benefit the Penn State Ag Alumni Endowment for the Pasto Agricultural Museum."

Items for bid include antique hand and farm tools, a scale, a butter churn, iron kettles, a miner's basket, newer and antique model tractors and trucks, meats from the University Meats Lab, and Penn State

Creamery cheese. Farm production items include bull semen, a cow stall mat, 10 tons of shredded and baled newsprint for animal bedding, fencing supplies, alfalfa and corn seed, and subscriptions to *Lancaster Farming* and other newspapers.

Donations for fun and recreation include Penn State football tickets, Nittany Valley Symphony tickets, a cottage rental on Lake Rays-town, and certificates for dinner.

Items that might make good gifts include an ox yoke, photographs and prints, gift baskets, fresh peaches, a hanging corner cupboard, antique pewter ice cream molds, milk bottles, Penn State sports balls and clothes, and DVDs.

Equine enthusiasts can find a Western Pleasure saddle in excellent condition. It was donated by the family of James P. Gallagher, in memory of the former Penn State extension specialist. It was his personal saddle with a rich medium oil color and silver trim. It has a 15 1/2-inch seat.

Collectors of brass bells will have many choices. Included are four sets of sleigh bells on leather straps, three sets of Conestoga wagon

bells (three-, four-, and five-bell sets), four sets of sleigh shaft bells, two sets of hames bells, and two school hand bells.

New this year will be a cash-and-carry section. Buyers of these items won't have to bid and wait until the end of the auction. They can pay cash for each specially marked item and take it with them upon completion of the transaction. Early arrivals will have the advantage in this section.

Bidding will close promptly at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 20. Successful bidders can pick up their items after payment is processed Wednesday.

Penn State's Ag Progress Days is conducted at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rockspring, nine miles southwest of State College on Rt. 45. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 19; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Aug. 20; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 21. Admission and parking are free.

For more information, call (800) PSU-1010 toll-free until Aug. 21 or visit the Ag Progress Days Website at <http://apd.cas.psu.edu>.

Attention Dairy Farmers



Visit the dairy
checkoff booth in
Dairy and Livestock
Tent #1 at the
2003 Ag Progress
Days.

Learn about
3-A-Day of Dairy, Milk
Vending and More!

Dairy Checkoff

helps to increase dairy demand
is managed efficiently and effectively
helps to defend the image of dairy
products and the dairy industry



Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program
American Dairy Association & Dairy Council Mid East
Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association