



Raising And Showing Hogs Becomes Family Tradition For Show Pig Producers



An inbred "love for hogs" that became a teenager's business continues today supplying show pig prospects throughout the Midwest.

"My parents were in the hog business while I was growing up, and I always enjoyed working with them, and especially liked showing hogs," reflected Tyson Buchman of Buchman Show Pigs at Alta Vista.

"It's just continued now into the fourth generation actually, as I really had fun working with my grandpa at a hog buying station, while I was very young. Now, our son seems to like working with hogs as much as I do," continued Buchman, who has a family operation with his wife, BJ, and 11-year-old Wyatt.

Today's breeding herd dates back three decades when Buchman retained top gilts he'd purchased and shown as 4-H projects.

Competing successfully with home raised hogs in local and state competitions; Buchman had numerous county champions, and entered the carcass champion one year at the state fair. "The highlight was being champion swine showman at the National Western Livestock Show in Denver," he said.

A member of state and national livestock 4-H, FFA, junior and senior college judging teams, collecting top swine division awards on several occasions, Buchman competed internationally in livestock judging competition, representing the winning FFA team at the American Royal in Kansas City.

Continuing his own hog operation while attending Butler County Community College, Buchman then transferred to Kansas State University and lived and worked at Dr. Bob Hines Hampshires, learning more about the industry from the world renowned swine researcher.

Home raised pigs were merchandized at consignment sales and at private treaty until after college, when Buchman formed a partnership with his sister, Jennie Buchman, and they conducted annual prospect pig sales at Council Grove.

"After Jennie dispersed her interests, my family continued our own operation," said Buchman. "We've been selling our pigs as a part of the Mid America Show Pig Sale at Manhattan."

Advertised on 580 WIBW, "This year's sale is Saturday afternoon, April 13, at CiCo Park in Manhattan. With another consignor, we'll be selling 60 top prospects," said Buchman, adding that his operation includes Duroc, Yorkshire, Poland China and crossbred sows.

Although there are more Poland China hogs being exhibited now than when Buchman started raising them, he said, "I got my first registered Poland gilt from (the late) Allyn Thompson at Solomon, one of the top Poland breeders in the country, and have always continued breeding a few registered as well as commercial Polands.

"Prospects from Buchman Show Pigs continue to annually collect class titles, breed awards and grand championships, with Wyatt Buchman showing home raised hogs to earn numerous awards.

"The show pig industry has continued to grow, and unquestionably it will get bigger as a project, because it doesn't require major equipment and investment," Buchman predicted.

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