

# FL Farming

## A herd of unique pigs

By DORIS WOLF

CANANDAIGUA — The poster in the computer room of Norm Kendall's barn shows Miss Piggy raising a clenched fist under the words "PIG POWER."

Both the poster and computer reflect Kendall's approach to pork producing — it's an aggressive, "hi-tech" business.

Though not as sexy as the pin-up on the poster, the pigs reclining in the concrete-floored pens in Kendall's farrowing barn are also powerful.

They're certified disease-free, the only such herd in the state, raised especially for research. They're sold to the federal government's Plum Island Animal Disease Center on an island east of Long Island, where foreign contagious diseases of animals are studied. The center works to develop vaccines against such viruses as the hoof and mouth disease which shut down the Danish ham business this year.

To be certified disease-free, Kendall's pig operation must undergo rigid inspections. In addition to on-site inspections of his facility, Kendall takes 12 pigs every three months to Ohio where they are slaughtered and examined. Written reports are filed with the Specific Pathogen Free headquarters in Iowa, which maintains a registry of all accredited disease-free herds in the country.

To start out disease-free, piglets are surgically removed from the sow and reared in isolation. This procedure is designed to eliminate and prevent specific viral diseases, lice and mange, Kendall said.

The visitor to Kendall's barn must take special precautions to see that the animals remain uncontaminated. Guests are shown to the sparkling, tiled laboratories, where they are invited to wash up. They then enter a dressing area, where they are given a pair of coveralls, and plastic boots to wear.

Once a pig leaves Kendall's farm, it may not return, lest it has been exposed to diseases from other animals. That means that when Kendall's animals are shown at local fairs, they are trucked off to the slaughterhouse afterward, rather than returned in triumph to the barn.

When Kendall takes his pigs to market, the staff takes special precautions to make sure no diseases get on the truck as the pigs get off. The trailer is not allowed to touch the buildings or pens at the market, and no one except Kendall's staff is allowed to enter or even touch the truck.

Kendall's staff all wear coveralls which are brought home for special cleaning, and plastic boots, which are peeled off and left in the market yard before the truck leaves.

Each morning when Kendall arrives in his carpeted, multi-roomed office attached to the barn, he checks his computer screen for the daily work schedule.

The punch of a button on his computer keyboard allows Kendall to see what his hired workers and an intern from Long Island, who's



**A farmer and his heroine**

Norm Kendall looks at a computer printout at his disease-free pig farm on Route 21 near Canandaigua. The farmer said he hopes his animals will someday be as popular as the figure on the poster. (Times photo by Doris Wolf)

learning the pork business, must do that day. The screen shows Kendall which pigs were bred last month and need to be checked to see if they're pregnant; which pigs will give birth in a month and should be fed a high-nutrient pre-natal diet, and which pigs will farrow in the coming week and should be moved to special pens.

An attached machine gives him a daily printed record of every pig, its location in the barn and its stage in the reproductive process.

Kendall said the computer is an efficient tool, but it is only as good

as the information fed into it. "It forces you to have a good record-keeping system, with detail and organization," he said.

He moved to his farm on Route 21 in May 1978, after convincing his bankers that the pork business would be a sound investment. To do that, Kendall amassed facts and figures which showed there was a 10-percent profit average for pork farmers in the 1970s.

Kendall built his 210-foot barn the following year, installed 140 Yorkshire sows, and watched the pork market come crashing down. The price for Kendall's first pigs was a paltry 30 cents per pound, and the following shipment returned 28 cents per pound, a 10-year low. The price stayed at that level for six months before it began slowly to regain strength.

Today, Kendall said, the price is "good, very good." Feeder pigs, he said, are now selling for "much more than they're worth. I take people's money, but gee..."

The reason for the strong prices, Kendall said, is because demand has remained steady, many farmers have cut back the size of their breeding herd while others have gone out of business, and corn, one of the staples of a pig's diet, remains cheap.

Kendall shipped his first disease-free pigs to Plum Island in the fall of 1980, and has sold 100 to 600 a year to them since.

But lucrative and important as that market is, it accounts for only 25 percent of his business, Kendall said. The remainder of his pigs are sold to other pork producers as feeders or as breeding stock and replacements.

People buy his pigs, he said, because they know they won't be bringing diseases into their herds. "On many farms, the animals have to be inoculated against so many diseases, they are pin-cushions by the time they go to market," he said.

Kendall said 60 percent of his pigs are sold as feeders. He'd like someday to expand his barns and finish the pigs to market weight himself, but that doesn't seem likely as long as interest rates remain high.

Despite the extra precautions which must be taken, Kendall said he's found it's more cost-effective to raise disease-free pigs. Diseased pigs cost more to treat with antibiotics and consume greater amounts of feed in proportion to the meat they produce, he said.

Kendall said he'd like to see more pork producers establish SPI herds. He supports the state Department of Agriculture and Markets efforts to develop and promote herds free of brucellosis and pseudo rabies, two common pig diseases.

And, Kendall said, he'd like pork producers to work together to promote their product more aggressively. Someday, he'd like New York state pork to be as popular as the porcine starlet on his poster.

## Farm Prices

Range of prices offered Friday, June 18, by selected local dealers

SHELL CORN \$2.63-\$2.80 bu.	HAY 50-90 ton	OATS 1.75-2.00 bu.	STRAW 50-60 ton	WHEAT 3.00-3.10 bu.	RED KIDNEY BEANS 523 hwgt
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### Oats

(No 2 miling, Nplb bu.)		Thurs	Yr ago
Cash prices		1.98-2.15	2.25
FUTURES PRICES			
(5,000 bu., cents per bu.)			
Open	Close	Change	
July	182	181 1/2	-1/2
Sept	187	186 1/2	-1/2
Dec	168	170	+2
Mar83	171 1/2	172 1/2	+1
May	173 1/2	174	+1/2
Est vol 1 660	vol Wed 1 545	open int	8.895 +197

### Livestock

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Here is a summary of 16 livestock auctions in the state compiled by the federal-state Market News Service of the New York state Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Slaughter cattle: Demand moderate to good. Compared to last week steers and heifers 1.00-5.00 lower; cows steady to 1.00 lower; bulls steady. Steers: Choice yield grade 3 975-1300 lb. 63.50-68.25; Good 2-3 1000-1100 lb. 55.75-64.50; Choice 2-3 Holsteins 975-1575 lb. 60.00-69.00; Good 1-2 Holsteins 750-1375 lb. 52.00-59.25; Standard 1-2 Holsteins 875-1250 lb. 48.00-52.00. Heifers: few choice 2-3 825-1050 lb. 60.00-65.00; Good 2-3 775-1475 lb. 55.50-59.50; Standard 1-2 500-800 lb. 47.00-49.50.

Cows: Utility and commercial 2-3 41.00-50.00, mostly 43.00-48.50; Cutter 1-2 38.00-43.50, few canner and low cutter 1-2 33.75-39.00. Bulls: Yield grade 1 950-2050 lb. 48.50-56.75, few 57.00-61.00; Yield grade 2 9.00-1575 lb. 45.00-52.00.

Slaughter calves & vealers: Demand moderate to good. Choice and prime vealers 2.00-6.00 lower, good and choice under 110 lb. Generally steady. Calves: Good 185-455 lb. 43.00-64.00. Vealers: few prime 170-300 lb. 88.00-93.50; Choice 150-375 lb. 70.00-91.00, mostly 75.00-90.00, 110-140 lb. 67.50-75.00; Good 150-350 lb. 63.00-80.00; Good and choice 90-110 lb. 62.00-73.00, 70-90 lb. 58.00-69.00, 50-70 lb. 50.00-60.00. Calves returned to feed 32 percent.

Holstein heifers: 80-130 lb. 65.50-129.00, mostly 70.00-115.00. Holstein bulls: 85-125 lb. 65.00-109.00, mostly 73.00-97.00. Slaughter hogs: Demand moderate. Barrows and gilts 1.00-2.00 lower, sows 50 higher than last week. Barrows and gilts: U.S. 1-2, 205-260 lb. 58.25-59.70; U.S. 2-3, 200-240 lb. 57.00-59.00. Sows: U.S. 1-3, 270-630 lb. 44.50-51.00, few up to 55.00. Boars: 195-600 lb. 45.00-46.00.

Sheep & lambs: Spring slaughter lambs few choice and prime 90-100 lb. 62.50-68.50. Slaughter ewes: One lot utility and good 145 lb. 24.50.

### Hogs

(Omaha, av. cwt.)		Thurs	Yr ago
Cash prices		1.11	1.12
FUTURES PRICES			
(30,000 lbs., cents per lb.)			
Open	Close	Change	
June	63.00	59.65	-3.35
July	56.20	56.20	0
Aug	54.60	54.27	-3.33
Oct	53.90	50.82	-3.08
Dec	51.10	50.15	-0.95
Feb83	50.25	49.00	-1.25
Apr	47.90	46.47	-1.43
June	48.40	48.17	-0.23
July	49.00	47.75	-1.25
Est vol 5 530	vol Wed 24 916	open int	54.982 -1.435

### Beef

(700-900 lbs. Midw. lb. lob.)		Thurs	Yr ago
Cash prices		1.11	1.12
FUTURES PRICES			
(Cattle, 40,000 lbs., cents per lb.)			
Open	Close	Change	
June	73.40	71.02	-2.38
Aug	62.95	62.42	-0.53
Oct	58.80	58.15	-0.65
Dec	59.50	58.60	-0.90
Feb83	59.40	58.55	-0.85
Apr	59.25	58.52	-0.73
June	60.40	60.40	0
Est vol 20 491	vol Wed 25 492	open int	56.830 -689

### Corn

(No 2 yellow, Cent-III bu.)		Thurs	Yr ago
Cash prices		1.17	1.14
FUTURES PRICES			
(5,000 bu., cents per bu.)			
Open	Close	Change	
July	273	274 1/2	+ 1/2
Sept	269 1/2	269 1/2	0
Dec	272 1/2	270 1/2	-2
Mar83	285 1/2	284 1/2	-1
May	295 1/2	294 1/2	-1
July	302	301	-1
Est vol 17 496	vol Wed 18 883	open int	115.500 +39

### Wheat

(No 2 soft red, St. Lou bu.)		Thurs	Yr ago
Cash prices		1.17	1.14
FUTURES PRICES			
(5,000 bu., cents per bu.)			
Open	Close	Change	
July	338	337 1/2	-1/2
Sept	352	352 1/2	+ 1/2
Dec	371 1/2	371 1/2	0
Mar83	387	387 1/2	+ 1/2
May	391	392 1/2	+ 1 1/2
July	389	389	0
Est vol 22 570	vol Wed 22 457	open int	48.480 -701

### Soybeans

(No 1 yellow, Cent-III bu.)		Thurs	Yr ago
Cash prices		1.19	1.19
FUTURES PRICES			
(5,000 bu., cents per bu.)			
Open	Close	Change	
July	627	623 1/2	-3 1/2
Aug	631	626	-5
Sept	632	627	-5
Nov	637	631	-6
Jan83	650	646	-4
Mar	667	663	-4
May	677	676	-1
July	688	680	-8
Aug	690	690	0
Est vol 19 079	vol Wed 17 445	open int	79.975 +1.116

### Soybean Meal

(Decatur III ton)		Thurs	Yr ago
Cash prices		184.50	199.50
FUTURES PRICES			
(100 tons, \$ per ton)			
Open	Close	Change	
July	183.50	183.00	-0.50
Aug	183.50	183.00	-0.50
Sept	182.60	183.00	+0.40
Oct	183.50	183.50	0
Dec	188.00	187.60	-0.40
Jan83	190.00	189.50	-0.50
Mar	194.00	194.00	0
May	201.00	201.00	0
July	205.50	205.50	0
Est vol 11 841	vol Wed 8 700	open int	44.816 +1.428

### National

NATIONAL MARKETS THURSDAY, June 17

### Potatoes

(Rnd, wht., 50 lbs. NY-del.)		Thurs	Yr ago
Cash prices		7.00-7.25	6.25
FUTURES PRICES			
(Maine, 50,000 lbs., cents per lb.)			
Open	Close	Change	
Nov	6.95	6.98	0.03
Feb83	7.05	7.05	0
Mar	7.92	7.90	-0.02
Apr	8.93	8.96	0.03
Est vol 178	vol Wed 89	open int	2.387 +6

## Farm cadet help available

SODUS — Farm Cadets will be available again this year to work on farms in Wayne County.

For many years, the farm cadet program has been a source a labor for Upstate farmers during harvest season, while providing an opportunity for high school youths from New York City to do useful outdoor work.

In recent years, most farm cadets have been students from agricultural high schools that require this work experience as part of their course of study or students who are preparing to attend an agricultural college.

Farm cadets are 15 years of age and older, and they pay their own way to the farm. The employer agrees to pay an established wage rate on a weekly basis plus room, board, and laundry. The employer is expected to pay the cadet's transportation home if the cadet does a satisfactory job for the agreed upon period of employment.

Students are normally available for work when school ends in June until about Labor Day. For some cadets, this will be their first on-the-job experience, while others will have had previous farm-work experience.

The established basic cash week-

ly wage for inexperienced cadets is \$45, plus room, board and laundry. Other slightly higher weekly rates have been established for experienced farm cadets and other classifications of student workers.

Farmers who are interested in hiring students this summer or who desire additional information about the Farm Cadet Program should contact Harrie Dingle, Rural Employment Representative at the State Employment Service at 59 Maple Ave., Sodus, or call 483-9113.

## Farm Calendar

July 10 — New York Pork Producers' Convention dinner for Russ Sanders, promotion director for the National Pork Producers Council 7 p.m. at the Rowntowner Newark Reservations, \$9 each — must be sent to the coop of Joe 2436 Highland Road, RD 2 Lyons 14489 by July 5.

July 11 — Field Day, sponsored by New York Pork Producers' Coop, activities begin at 8 a.m. at Torman Park, Pulleville. Adults \$6, children under 12 \$4. Reservations to the coop office (address above) by July 5.

Farming Calendar appears Mondays in the Times. Items for this listing of meetings and events should be submitted to 11 Farming Calendar, Finger Lakes Times, 218 Geneva St., Geneva, NY 14456 by Friday. The event, location and time must be included.

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