



A VETERAN SHOWMAN at 18, Ned Z. Paes, Strasburg, showed this Ayrshire heifer, Rock Acres Dixie to the Grand Championship in the District FFA Show Friday at the Guernsey Sales Pavilion in Lancaster. The heifer is a half sister on the sires side to the Grand Champion of the 4-H District Show. (LF Photo)

Pilot Tests at Beltsville Indicate Swine Artificial Insemination Likely

Results of a recent pilot test on the preservation of swine semen for use in artificial insemination reemphasizes the possibilities for future dissemination within this country of superior germ plasma needed to increase meat-type hog breeding stock, the U. S. Department of Agriculture said today.

The preservation method used extends life of the semen to about 50 hours, or considerably more than its present normal life in methods used in this country. This makes possible shipment of the semen greater distances and with greater chance of successful use. Methods of preserving swine semen were developed nearly 20 years ago by Missouri Agricultural Station researchers and were then applied experimentally in artificial insemination. Since that time, interest in artificial insemination of swine has increased in the United States and foreign countries because of the growing demand for high quality breeding stock in meat type hogs.

Scientists of USDA's Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville, have conducted tests on the keeping qualities of semen when shipped long distances by air. Samples of semen were collected and processed daily and flown to Beltsville over a 15-day period last December. In each case, 30 to 40 hours had elapsed from the time the semen was collected until the sows were inseminated.

Of 24 sows used in the test, 11, or 46 per cent farrowed litters of strong, healthy pigs. The average litter farrowed was 9.2 pigs, and

74 pigs per litter or 80 per cent were alive at 21 days of age. These results on litter size and survival compare favorably with litters normally produced in the same season at Beltsville which averaged 10.1 in pigs farrowed and 8.6 or 83.6 per cent in pigs weaned at 56 days.

Results of the test satisfactorily demonstrated that boar semen, treated with sodium citrate and egg yolk as diluters, can be shipped long distances. However, greater experience in inseminating techniques may be the means of increasing the rate of conception, USDA scientists point out. In the tests, the semen was shipped in small collapsible plastic bottles that were used in the inseminating process.

The pilot test was undertaken to determine feasibility of shipping the treated semen long distances. It was in no sense a breeding program. Experimenters found that they obtained the best results with semen that had been kept within a temperature range of 59 to 68 degrees during shipment. This was indicated by the fact that only one sow conceived among the last eight sows to be bred artificially because the samples of semen used were flown during stormy weather in late December when presumably lower temperatures encountered at higher flying altitudes, affected motility and livability of the semen. Unlike semen from bulls, swine semen is destroyed by freezing under any method currently known.

Farm Calendar

Sat., Sept. 7 Senior Extension Club chicken barbeque and square dance—5 to 8 p. m. at Buchmiller Park, Lancaster. The public is invited.	Tues., Sept. 10 York Interstate Fair — runs through Sept. 14. Elizabethtown - Donegal 4-H Club — at the home of Christ Miller, Rt. 1 Elizabethtown.	Thurs., Sept. 12 Lititz - Manheim Community 4-H Club — 8 p. m. at the home of Quentin Buckwalter, Rt. 3 Lititz.
Sun., Sept. 8 Reading Fair—runs through Sept. 15.	Wed., Sept. 11 Lititz Farm Show — through Sept. 14. Guernsey 4-H Club — 8 p. m. at Farm Bureau Cooperative, Lancaster.	Wed., Sept. 18 Solanco Community Fair, Quarryville — through Sept. 20. Elizabethtown Kiwanis Community Farm Fair — through Sept. 21.
Mon., Sept. 9 Ayrshire 4-H Club—7:30 p. m. at SPABC, Lancaster.		

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