

SPECIAL REPORT

High Pork Production Per Man Possible Using New System

By Bob Best

In recent months a new method of raising pigs to market size under a system of restricted space and open housing has been adopted by about half a dozen farmers in the County.

The plan, which is an adaptation to hog raising or some of

the principles of mass broiler production and the open stabling of livestock, is really nothing new. What is new about it is that these principles seem to apply to swine.

The house, which measures 40 feet across by 36 feet deep, will accommodate 100 head of hogs. And of the 36 foot depth, 14 feet is an open cement slab. This, at first thought, is pretty crowded, but these appears to be sufficient room even when the hogs are market size.

The house is designed for one man operation. On both sides are 16 hole self feeders and four float controlled waterers. A six foot alleyway at the rear of the building is provided as a storage and work area for the operator.

The buildings are nothing elaborate. Of wood and concrete block construction, the estimated cost, including all hardware and appliances, is \$1,752. The largest costs are for the blocks, aluminum roofing, self feeders and waterers.

The house is open to the south. Twenty years ago, a pork producer would have been considered foolish for attempting to raise market hogs under such conditions. The sanitation problems were too great, the hogs would get too hot in summer and the feed would be too difficult to handle.

However many things have changed in the past 20 years. Insecticides now effectively destroy most disease carrying insects and parasites. Anti-biotics take care of those on the inside, and new wormers such as piperazine keep internal parasites under control.

Another thing that has changed is that most farms now have wa-



THIS HOUSE IS DESIGNED to handle 50 head of market hogs. The large structure in the center is a 16 head capacity self feeder. Automatic heated water fountains are also supplied. Aluminum roofing is

used to give greater heat reflection in the summer. The south end of the house is never closed, although the other sides are made wind proof. (LF Photo)

CONTROL CHICKWEED

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Strawberries

—with

CHLORO I.P.C.

For best results spray when temperatures are from 40°-60°.

Apply 1 to 2 qts of CHLORO IPC with 30 50 gals. of water per acre.

Outstanding results have been obtained when above recommendations were followed.

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Babcock's

Healthy Chicks Make Great Layers!



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Would You Try To Keep Your Children From Catching The Measles?

Probably not. How about upset stomach? Mumps? Chicken Pox, Colds, etc? Why do they get all these diseases? So they can live in their environment. They have to build immunity.

Now, how about coccidiosis? It's not such a bad disease for chicks if they can catch it gradually while they are young and build their own immunity. At Babcock Poultry Farm we never treat for cocci. No medicine in the mash, none in the drinking water, no antibiotics. Sure they get a little little cocci but what of it? We think it's better than running them as future layers by medication.

But here's the trick to it. We use hot water heat which helps keep the floor dry. We feed scratch grain in the litter every afternoon, day-old to maturity. We allow 1 sq. ft. of floor space to eight weeks, 2 sq. ft. after that.

Gas and electric brooders are more conducive to cocci than coal and hot water.

250 chicks are plenty for any hover, even if the manufacturer says it will accommodate 1000. The manufacturer probably never heard of coccidiosis.

You raised nice pullets and so did we before medicated mashes. Why not again?

If you raise chicks under coal stoves or hot water heat, don't let the fire go out, no matter how warm the weather, until they are 8 weeks old. Open the windows and let the heat keep the litter dry to prevent a sudden outbreak of cocci. A little heat is "strong prevention" against cocci.

Babcock Bessies are in your future. Why not try them and enjoy their performance on your farm. You're probably paying for the quality that Bessies offer you anyway, so why not order Bessies and see what they'll do for you?

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ter systems. Now in the summer a fine mist or spray can be played over the concrete slab. Producers who have tried this say that hogs will lie under this spray without minding the sun. Thus the hogs are kept cool and the spray also aids in keeping down insects and removes manure accumulations.

Bulk feed handling by blowers has removed the most backbreaking job on the farm. The self feeders in the new set-up will handle a ton of feed each. Although this is not much when 100 hungry market barrows are working on it at free choice, refilling the feeder is just a matter of hooking on the blower hose.

But most important of all, just how efficient is this type of feeding? The proof lies in the feed cost per pound of gain. Trials have shown that on the average, a pound of gain can be put on with 12 cents worth of feed.

Here in Lancaster County, only one hatch of hogs have been marketed under the system. The cost per pound of gain for these was 13 cents. The operators said that the cost would have been lowered if he had not made some of the mistakes now corrected.

One of these mistakes was that hogs were not put on antibiotics when moved to combat the stress of movement and a change of feed. Four hogs were lost this way.

Another practice recommended by all users is that all pigs be vaccinated upon arrival on the farm with modified virus and serum for cholera.

Still another procedure being followed is the use of wormer and a follow-up on the first application. The follow-up is necessary to kill any worms that might have been in the egg stage when the pigs were first wormed.

This plan of hog production was originated with the Ralston Purina Company. Although producers here are contracting hogs with feed dealers, this is not part of the plan suggested by the company. Any of the systems plans and assistance offered by the company may be obtained by any independent swine producer.

However the contracts being used vary in scope from full dealer ownership of the hogs to a guarantee of the feed cost per pound of gain on the finished product.

World Corn Crop Big, Feed Grains Down

Preliminary information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service indicated a 1957 world corn crop of about 6.4 billion bushels, a little less than the record 6½ billion bushel crop produced in 1956.

World production of barley and oats in 1957 is now estimated at about 140 million short tons, about six per cent below the large 1956 harvest.

Breneman Herd Cow Produces 514 lb. Fat

PETERBOROUGH, N. H. — A registered Guernsey cow, Willow Bends Ellen, owned by John A.

Breneman, Willow Street, has completed an official production record in the Herd Improvement Registry division of the American Guernsey Cattle Club.

This record was for 9,190 lbs. of milk and 514 lbs of fat.

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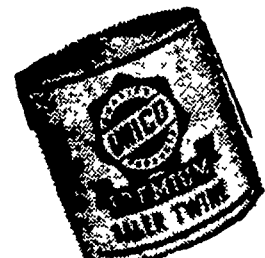
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