

HEAVIEST PIG LOSSES usually come at farrowing time. To prevent losses due to crushing or smothering by the sow, Strickland designed and built this farrowing stall. The panel at the left is removed after the sow has farrowed and the pigs can move about easily. Note that pigs can creep both under the heat lamp and to the left for supplemental feeding. (LF Photo)

Young Farmer Near Bainbridge Holds Costs by Learning Feeding Tricks

By BOB BEST

Robert Strickland R1 Bainbridge, is a graduate forester from Penn State. But he doesn't let that bother him in the operation of a 196 acre livestock farm near Bainbridge.

It started this way Strickland didn't know exactly what he was going to do after he finished his Army tour of duty. Then his father made a deal with him—he would buy a farm if Robert would operate it.

That was in 1956. Young Strickland had never farmed before, and had no training in farming. One of the first things that he did after moving to the farm was enroll in the government on the job training program for veterans, more commonly known as the GI training.

When he started his operation he had two sows, 200 layers, 20 acres of tobacco, no machinery,

and crop land that would produce only five tons of hay to the acre.

Just to show the change, he now has 20 sows, 500 layers, a complete line of machinery, 16 acres of tobacco, and half interest in 46 steers. The hay land now produces more than 20 tons to the acre.

That's a pretty fast rise for a young man just getting started. Strickland did it mostly by watching details and cutting out unnecessary expenses.

His farming program this year included 16 acres of tobacco, 31 acres of corn, 18 acres of wheat, 12 acres of barley, an acre of sweet corn and 30 to 35 acres of clover, timothy and alfalfa hay.

The corn averaged 50 to 60 bushels an acre, hurt badly from lack of moisture. The tobacco too, was hurt yielding only 1,200 pounds to the acre.

(Continued on page 11)

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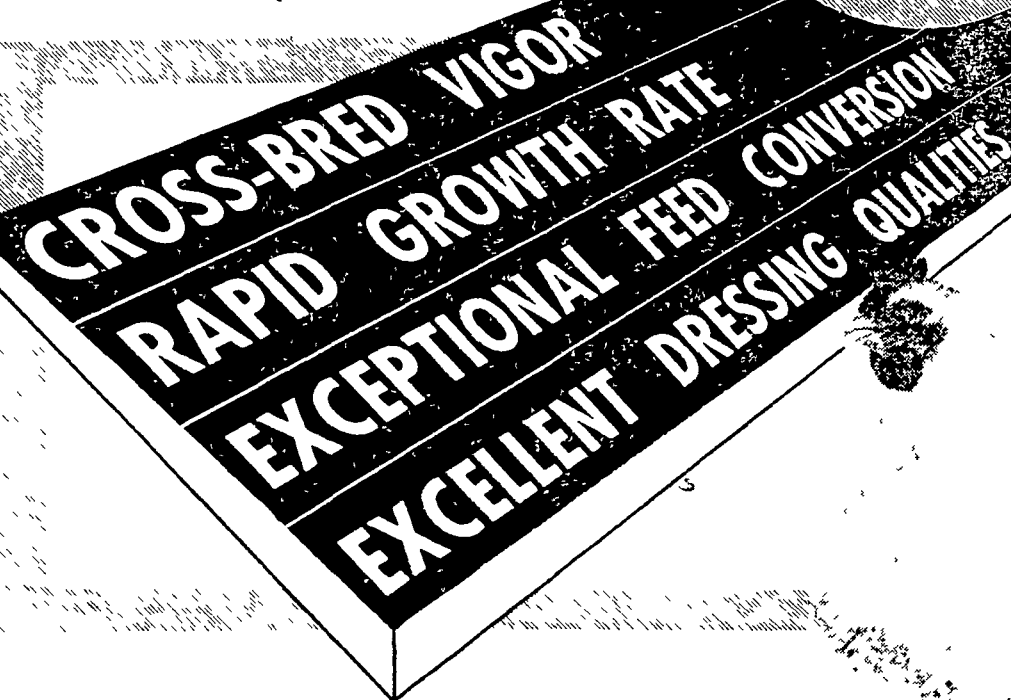
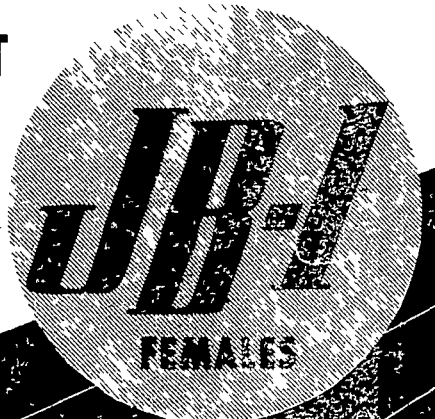
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