



A SIMPLE OUTDOOR shelter provides enough shade and comfort to these market hogs on the Bus Shoemaker farm for them to be up and eating. At the time this picture was taken the thermometer was hovering around the 90 degree mark. A plentiful supply of water is provided by a nearby creek. (LF Photo)

## Bus Shoemaker Likes to Watch Hogs Grow—Four to 500 Head at a Time

Raising market hogs in herds of four or five hundred is generally assumed to be done in the Midwest. But if you want to see such an operation, you need go no farther than the farm of Bus Shoemaker, R2 Quarryville:

Shoemaker now has about 470 head of barrows and gilts on feed on his 450 acre farm. The hogs range in size from feeder pigs to market weights.

His present program calls for selling a lot of 25 to 30 head each week throughout the year.

**BUT HE ADMITS** that this can change. "I play the market quite a bit," he says.

Shoemaker, a transplanted Minnesotan, was in the dairy business until about three years ago. He then was faced with the prospect of remodeling his barn and building a new milk house or getting out of the dairy business. He got out.

He then raised replacement heifers for a period while getting his swine enterprise set up and operating. Now the only dairy animals on the farm are some Holstein heifers being raised as 4H projects by the children.

Finding good pigs is the biggest obstacle to overcome in the market hog raising business in this area, Shoemaker says. When asked where he got the good quality pigs he has in his herds,

he said that it was a trade secret.

But he did imply that it took a lot of looking and trading to find the kind of pigs he needed.

**SHOEMAKER** is using a confinement feeding program for all the various weights. The hogs are separated by size and age into lots of about 70 head. In the winter when more head can be handled in a smaller area, the herd numbers are increased slightly.

To handle the hogs he has converted two dairy barns into feeding areas for the pigs. He has installed self feeders and automatic waterers. In the summer a sprinkler system is used to cool the barns.

This summer for the first time he is keeping a lot of hogs out-of-doors. The feeding is still centered around the self-feeder and water is provided by a creek. A simple sheet roof structure provides shade.

**THE FEEDING** program is not elaborate. The hogs are on full self feed continuously on a shelled corn-protein supplement mixture. This mixture is blown into the self feeders.

Sanitation practices help keep down mortality. The hogs are vaccinated by a veterinarian and the cement floors are kept clean. Shoemaker has been selling

## Chemical Devised To Stop Evaporation

A chemical called hexadecanol may save as much as one or two feet of water that would normally evaporate from farm ponds in one year, according to extension engineer Ted Willrich of Iowa State College.

In experiments by the Illinois State Water Survey Division, the powdered chemical has been mixed with water to form a slurry, or thin water mixture, which is dripped onto the water's surface from the windward side of the farm pond.

This forms a one-molecule thickness of chemical which spreads over the water like an oil slick and keeps the water from evaporating.

Willrich says the various chemicals used in the Illinois tests ranged from 60 cents to \$2 a pound. Approximately eight pounds of hexadecanol an acre is needed annually.

his pigs through the Lancaster Stockyards where he has been getting top prices for his animals. This reflects the type of pigs he picks and the efficiency of the feeding program.

This year he has placed most of his corn land in the soil bank. But with an 80 bushel an acre barley crop, he feels that there will be plenty of feed for the herd this winter. He plans to buy supplemental corn.

Farm Service Bulletin No. 5-8

# BLUE COMB

A disease which attacks growing pullets and young laying chickens.

**ORIGIN:** Not of bacterial origin, but otherwise suggestive of a contagious or infectious disease. Current view point: Probably a virus disease.

**SYMPTOMS:** Sudden decreased feed consumption, drop in egg production, depression and whitish watery diarrhea. Individual birds may have crop distension, sunken eyes, dark blue combs, shriveled shanks.

Post Mortem usually shows pale breast muscle resembling the flesh of fish. Crop is often filled with sour-smelling food. Small yellowish spots may appear on the liver. Enlargement of kidneys is common with the accumulation of urates.

**CAUTION:** Accurate diagnosis is necessary to differentiate between Blue Comb and Fowl Cholera.

**TREATMENT:** Several types of treatment formerly recommended have mostly been replaced by the use of the Broad Spectrum antibiotics or a combination of one of these with Furazolidone contained in a highly fortified feed.

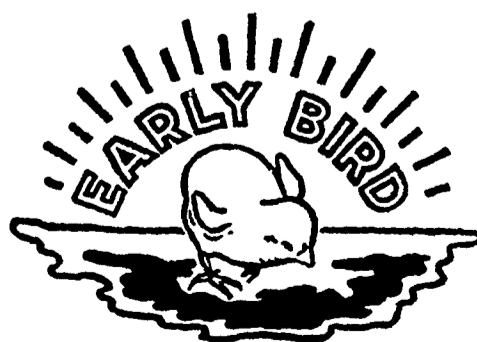
For treatment of **Growing Pullets** we recommend the use of our **EARLY BIRD No. 50** Medicated Ration.

For treatment of **Layers** we recommend our **EARLY BIRD No. 49** Medicated Ration.

Feed these for 5 to 7 days. We have found them quite effective. When a mash and grain program is followed it is well to discontinue the grain and replace it with a limited amount of our **EARLY BIRD No. 33** Poultry Fitting Ration.

If you have birds that "do not look just right", or trouble strikes your flock please call your Miller & Bushong representative or call Lancaster EXpress 2-2145 Collect.

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
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