

## Research Reveals

(Continued from page 11)

lev points out Using such com-  
parisons, the breeding of the sows  
was the same but that of their  
pigs was different

In another phase of the re-  
search project the effect inbred  
ing and line crossing systems of  
breeding had on sow performance  
was studied The performance of  
sows from both systems of breed-  
ing were compared when both  
groups produced linecross pigs

This part of the project show-  
ed that litters from inbred sows  
averaged 20 per cent smaller than  
litters from linecross sows at  
farrowing time

According to Lasley, the small-  
er litters resulted from one of  
two causes — the inbred sows'  
inability to produce as many eggs  
at breeding time as the linecross  
sows or because a large percent-  
age of their pigs died before birth

Both factors were probably at  
work, he notes

The linecross sows also weaned  
17 per cent more of the pigs  
they farrowed than did the inbred  
sows This suggests the linecross  
sows were better mothers

A slightly smaller percentage  
of non-inbred pigs from inbred  
sows died from weaning to 22  
weeks, he adds This indicates  
that the inbred sows didn't hurt  
the ability of their pigs to live  
after weaning

Pigs from linecross sows were  
no heavier at birth than non-in-  
bred pigs from inbred sows and  
only a half pound heavier at  
weaning, Lasley says

Apparently, inbred sows gave  
almost as much milk per pig as  
the linecross sows but their total  
milk production was less because  
they suckled two fewer pigs per  
litter

The pigs from linecross sows

averaged 10 pounds heavier at 22  
weeks than pigs from inbred sows  
but this probably wasn't due to  
the breeding of the sows, he notes

The method of breeding can  
have great effect on litter size  
and weight at market time. In  
this study, litters of pigs from  
linecross sows averaged almost  
twice as heavy at 154 days of age  
as inbred litters from inbred sows

Inbreeding effects suggest that  
performance traits in swine are  
affected greatly by "mating," Las-  
ley says If true, the greatest im-  
provement in performance  
through the application of breed-  
ing methods would be expected to  
come from crossing inbred lines  
of proven superior crossing abil-  
ity rather than selection for the  
improvement of these traits by  
making the best to the best

From a special standpoint, the  
commercial producer can't afford  
to produce inbred pigs or use in-  
bred sows for pig production On  
the other hand, inbred boars may  
be used to advantage for commer-  
cial pork production as long as  
they are fertile and mate readily  
with sows

Since inbreeding and linecross-  
ing effects on performance in  
swine seem to be exact opposites,

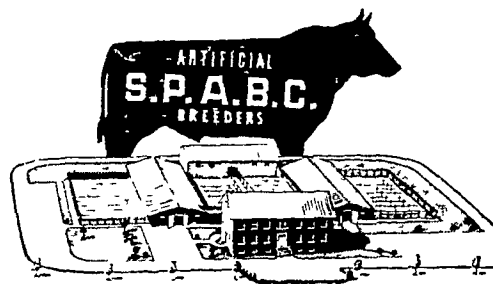


GRAND CHAMPION FFA Jersey at the 3rd annual Pennsylvania Junior Dairy Show

was shown by Tom Halliday, Jr., Kirkwood.

A systematic linecrossing program should be followed for commercial pork production, according to the animal breeding specialist

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ing weeding out or growing to-  
bacco and vegetable crops Now  
all growers have to do is to  
sprinkle beds with a new soil  
fumigant called Vapam and the  
weeds are holed away

This new chemical was de-  
veloped by chemists and agronom-  
ists of Stauffer Chemical Com-  
pany Most farmers just add the  
Vapam to water and apply it to  
the beds with any standard spray  
or irrigation rig Even a sprink-  
ling can or garden hose will do  
the job and no expensive tarp  
covers are needed

What happens is that the li-  
quid soaks into the soil and then  
vaporizes As the vapor spreads  
underground it kills weeds, in-  
sects larvae germinating weed  
seeds nematodes and most plant  
diseases leaves the soil clean  
and healthy

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yielded extraordinary results in  
extensive field tests

John A Cox horticulturist at  
Louisiana State University says  
that the new chemical is "as easy  
as a shotgun to use out as ef-  
fective as an atomic weapon"  
Extension Tobacco Specialist Ira  
Massie of the University of  
Kentucky, reports good weed con-  
trol and many county agents say  
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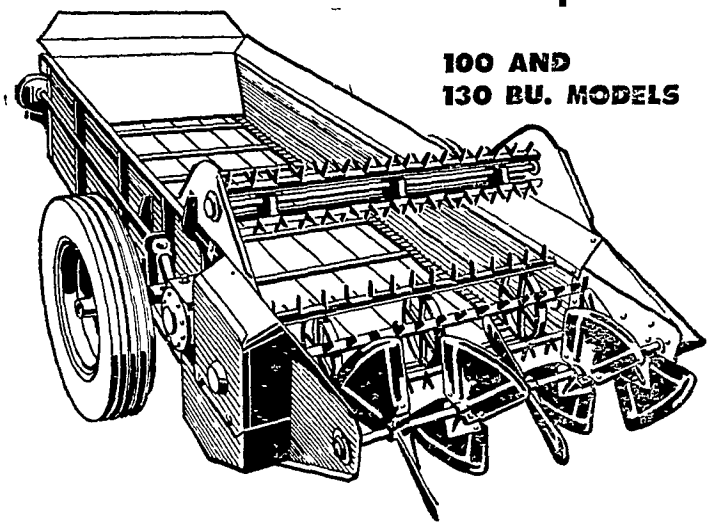
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