

Boar Value Told By Litter Size Of Crossbred Daus.

A farmer wishing to produce more pigs per litter should crossbreed and select boars primarily on the basis of litter size of their crossbred daughters.

Research supporting this conclusion is based on a study by ARS geneticist, J. C. Taylor, using straightbred and crossbred sows sired by the same boar.

"Boars that helped their straightbred daughters increase the size of their litters somewhat," Taylor said, "weren't necessarily the ones which helped crossbred daughters have large litters. You can't judge a boar's value for transmitting litter size in crossbreeding by the way he performs in straight breeding."

Taylor believes that improvement in litter size by crossbreeding comes about through hereditary factors different from those involved in straight breeding. Farmer wanting to improve litter size, therefore, should test boars specifically for their value in crossing with unrelated sows.

In straight breeding, he-

reditary factors a boar transmits to his daughters are likely to be much the same as those contributed by the dam. Therefore, straight breeding makes for slow progress. But animals of different breeds generally differ more widely in genetic makeup, and sows produced from such crosses usually have a greater potential for large litters.

ing word mainly on a report just released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the first-year results of USDA's monitoring farm pesticide use in the Mississippi River Delta area.

In spite of many different pesticides used, only small amounts of a few persistent insecticides were recovered in USDA study. Still to be answered, said Cole, is the question of what these small amounts mean and what, if any, effect they may have on organisms in the environment.

In the USDA project, an area of intensive agricultural pesticide use was monitored along with an area of low use. Tests were conducted to detect all kinds of pesticides, including herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, soil fumigants and growth regulators.

Residues were searched for in soil, sediment, water, crops, livestock, and certain aquatic and land animals. Wells, small wild mammals, livestock and poultry after slaughter, and crops at maturity were some of the other sources tested. More than 3,200 samples were analyzed.

The chemicals detected included traces of BHC, aldrin, dieldrin, endrin, and DDT, which were recovered from soil, sediment and water from the heavily treated areas as well as from areas not treated with appreciable

amounts of these pesticides for several years.

The evidence indicates that there was no general accumulation of pesticides—not even in fields that received large amounts of various pesticides over several years, Cole pointed out. However, the results do confirm the contention that small quantities of certain insecticides of the chlorinated hydrocarbon group persist in soils and sediment and other parts of the environment, he added.

● Lancaster

(Continued from Page 2) than Monday. Sows 50c Higher.

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● Vintage

(Continued from Page 2)

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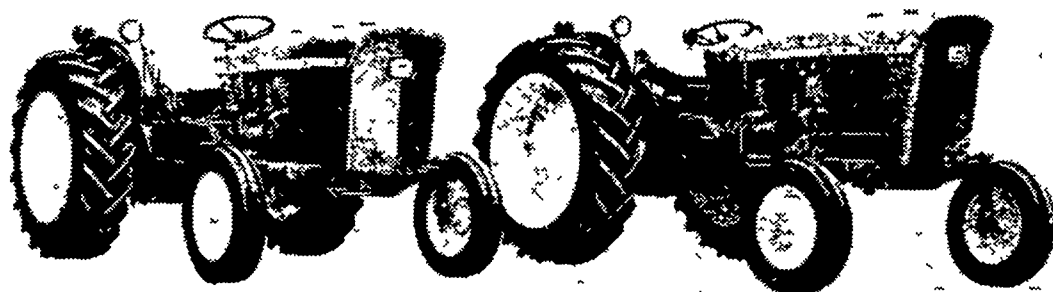
No Pesticide Buildup, Latest Study Shows

Investigations during the last year have failed to show any widespread, overall buildup of pesticides in soil, water, or crops, according to Dr. Herbert Cole, agriculture chemicals coordinator at Penn State University.

He based this encourag-

not treated with appreciable

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