



NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT — managing three separate groups of sows takes some doin'! Above, Abram Zeiset demonstrates how he handles his two groups in the sow shelter by a system of gates. The sows at the trough came in eagerly from the pasture to accept this offer of a mid-morning snack. Here, Zeiset takes a count of heads to see that all the group is accounted for before he releases the second group of sows to the pasture. Below, your fearless photographer scaled a bulk bin for a shaky shot of the same scene from a different viewpoint.

L. F. Photo



HERE'S THE "WALKING PIGS", shown in another picture, investigating their new home in the growing house. To minimize labor in this house, Zeiset has a slatted floor at the rear of the pen which the pigs soon learn to use. Sows remain with their litters until weaning, and then they rejoin their group for re-breeding.

L. F. Photo



THIS SOW DIDN'T MIND STANDING UP so our camera could see how she fitted her farrowing crate, but her offspring were not exactly delighted with the rude interruption at mealtime. This is one of 17 such units in Abram Zeiset's farrowing house. Fans help keep it cool in summer, and heat lamps offer supplemental heat in winter. The pigs stay here until ready for sale as feeders, or until their space is needed for the next occupants.

L. F. Photo

● **County Swinemen**

the farrowing of each group.

(Continued from Page 1)

last summer when he had as many as 110 sows on the farm. Sows in each group are culled out as the need indicates, but are generally kept for about six litters.

BREEDING PROGRAM

Zeiset's present sows are a mixture of Yorkshire, Duroc, and some Landrace. They are bred to purebred Yorkshire boars, of which he maintains three. To keep producing crossbreds and not have to have several breeds of boars, Zeiset rotates his entire sow herd every few years.

For example, he will save 40-50 gilts from the present litters and from the next two. He will have these grown for him, and as they mature they will replace the present sow groups. At that time, he will change boars, probably Duroc for this cycle, he said, adding that the last Duroc boars he used considerably improved feed conversion in their offspring.

The little pigs are weaned between five and eight weeks of age. The sows are rebred about three weeks after weaning, and he tries to maintain a spread of six weeks between

Zeiset mentioned that he had practiced hand breeding his sows to more than one boar, but found that his litter size in some cases was too large to be practical. He is presently switching to pasture breeding.

While one group of sows is in the farrowing house, the other two are kept in a sow shelter with access to pasture. Keeping these two groups separate, both on pasture and for feeding, is managed by a system of gates. He demonstrated this "simple-but-complicated" procedure, as he described it, and it appeared to work very well.

Although the farm is owned by Zeiset's father, Abe has not hesitated to add several buildings, feeling that their added usefulness would repay him over a few years. In the winter, he generally fattens about 50 steers. His crop farming is limited to about 60 acres, and with the exception of some tobacco, most of his harvest is used on the farm.

(See Photo Page 9)

One year's milk production would make a milk river 3,000 miles long, 40 feet wide and 3 feet deep; the river would stretch from Boston to San Francisco.

Lancaster Farming Ads Pay !

NEED MORE VENTILATION ?

WE HAVE FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY ALL TYPES OF FANS

E. M. Herr Equipment, Inc.

"Pioneer of Laying Cages"
R. D. 1, Willow Street (Lancaster Co.) Pa.
717-394-0654