

New Swine-Breeding Technique

Modern, specialized swine-breeding operations will run more smoothly and economically if estrus (heat) is synchronized artificially, a U. S. Department of Agriculture physiologist reported this week.

Dr. Roger J. Gerrits of USDA's Agriculture Research Service said that this judgment is based on more than four years of research at Beltsville, Md., and Miles City, Mont., conducted with more than 1,000 sows. He was speaking to the Second World Conference on Animal Production held at the University of Maryland in College Park.

"The more trials we run," Dr. Gerrits said, "the more we become convinced that estrous synchronization is no longer an experimental treatment, but is, in fact, a practical program for the producer. Not only controlled experiments, but also supervised field tests conducted on various farms since 1964 have proven this."

Collectively, data compiled by Dr. Gerrits show that when sows were synchronized with a feed additive experimentally labeled ICI 33,828, about 80 were bred within a 2-day period. Whether artificial insemination or natural service was used, over 80 percent of the treated animals became pregnant. Litter size averaged slightly more than 9 pigs for gilts, and 10 pigs for mature sows.

"The new technique will aid in efficient use of swine-breeding facilities where pigs are farrowed several times a year," Dr. Gerrits said, adding, "It reduces overhead expenses for building and equipment and permits marketing hogs on a year-round basis to avoid cyclical changes in the price of market hogs. Perhaps even more important, buildup of disease in swine breeding can be avoided more easily with synchronized groups of sows."

Another advantage of estrous synchronization is that it makes artificial insemination more practical. In one visit, an inseminator can breed a whole group of sows to boars with proven capac-

June milk production in Pennsylvania amounted to 275 million quarts, the State Crop Reporting Service says. This is 12.1 million fewer quarts than were produced in June, 1967.

Soldiers Eat More Per Capita Than Civilians

Food use on a per capita basis in the military exceeds that of the civilian population in the United States. Military food procurement per capita during 1965-67 was 19% higher than in 1957-

59. Over the same period, civilian per capita food use rose only 14%. However, the military continued to account for only a little more than 2% of total U.S. food use. As a result, total domestic food use per capita expanded only slightly faster than civilian use — 1.7% since 1957-59. Military per capita use exceeded that of civilians for most dairy products except cheese. "It's too bad that the future generations can't be here to help us spend their money."—Fred W. Grown, The Bergen (N.J.) Citizen.

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