



Sperry New Holland engineers Lawrence Halls (left) and Earl Koch (right) and industrial design coordinator, C. J. Kermes (center) have been cited for their work in product design by the American Iron and Steel Institute and Industrial Design magazine. Halls has been a project engineer with the company since 1959, while Koch has been there since 1951. Between them, they hold some 40 U.S. patents for agricultural equipment. Kermes, a noted painter as well as an industrial designer, has been honored before for his product designs.

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Massachusetts Tattoos Raw Garbage-fed Hogs

Slap tattooing with a special code—that's the key to a new program started in Massachusetts recently to make sure that hogs fed raw garbage move in compliance with state and federal shipping rules.

State law requires that garbage fed to swine must be heated to 212 deg. F. for 30 minutes. This eliminates the causative organisms of hog cholera and other animal diseases that might be present in meat scraps in the garbage. However, if hogs are fed raw or improperly cooked garbage—and thus possibly exposed to such diseases—they are put under quarantine and must comply with special shipping rules designed to prevent the spread of disease.

But since this limits markets—and thus reduces market prices—there is a great temptation to illegally divert hogs into regular marketing channels. And once a hog leaves the farm, how can you tell that he's been fed raw garbage?

That, say officials of the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture's Division of Animal Health, is where the slap tattoo comes in.

When state or federal inspectors in Massachusetts find hogs fed raw or improperly cooked garbage, they quarantine the herd and tattoo the hogs with a special combination of letters and numbers. This identifying mark is applied with a long-handled tattoo instrument that imbeds the ink in the hog's hide.

At the time of slaughter and debripping, the Massachusetts code tattoo becomes visible, clearly identifying the hog as having been fed raw garbage. State and federal meat inspectors in

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slaughter establishments in Massachusetts and surrounding states who have been alerted to the Massachusetts program and the identifying code have been asked to report any hog found with this tattoo. Massachusetts and U.S. Department of Agriculture officials can then identify the herd owner who violated the quarantine and take appropriate action.

State and USDA shipping rules require that hogs fed raw garbage either be butchered on the farm of origin or shipped—under permit—to (1) a state-inspected slaughter plant within the state

or (2) a federally inspected plant where they must be specially processed (deboned and cooked).

"We hope this program will prove valuable in restricting the interstate movement of quarantined animals, especially raw garbage-fed swine," says Dr. Walter C. Ferrall, Veterinarian-in-Charge for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in the southern New England region. "If we can successfully identify these swine, we can bring the goal of eradication of hog cholera and other swine diseases just that much closer."

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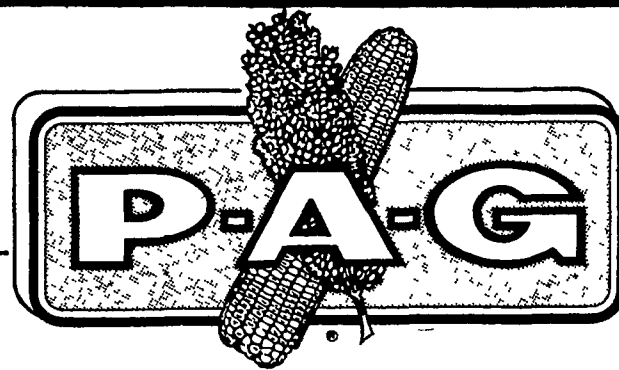
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