

# High moisture corn for hogs takes management

NEWARK, Del. - Some hog producers like to use high-moisture corn for finishing swine in order to eliminate drying costs and waiting time at the unloading point. There's nothing wrong with this practice. But it does require some careful management to prevent throwing away your savings on poor performance, cautions University of Delaware Extension swine specialist Dr. Richard Fowler.

High moisture corn is grain that is harvested at 24 to 30 per cent moisture. Tests show that performance with this wet grain is similar to what one can expect from fully dried corn, when either is used in complete rations. Poor

performance may result, however, when grain and supplements are fed separately.

For top feed efficiency, Fowler suggests using high-moisture grain rations on pigs over 60 pounds. One should complete rations, rolling the corn first, then blending the supplement with it before putting the mixture into the feeder. Pelleted supplements may incorporate better with the rolled grain. Separation in some feeders is also reduced by using a pelleted supplement, rather than meal.

A person should mix only the amount of feed the pigs will consume in one day, when feeding a ration containing high-moisture corn, and use stainless steel feeders to prevent corrosion.

There are alternatives to the complete ration system, says Fowler, but they result in less satisfactory performance.

The separate feeding of corn and supplement usually results in over-consumption of grain and too low an in-

take of the supplement to support rapid, efficient growth. Calcium and phosphorus deficiencies are among the first signs observed when this happens. Feeding just the bare limit per pound of a supplement once a day often results in

uneven nutrient intake. This can also mean poor herd performance.

The above guidelines also apply to the use of acid-preserved high-moisture grain. Without proper management, savings will be lost

But when the supplement and corn are blended together as recommended above, the pig will be getting a balanced ration with each bit, and one can be reasonably sure of top performance.

## Dairy herd health program offered

UNIVERSITY PARK - A dairy herd health program being offered by The Pennsylvania State University is saving dairymen thousands of dollars by holding down medical costs and keeping milk production at maximum levels.

Called the Somatic Cell Testing Program, the system involves the measurement of somatic cells, otherwise known as leukocytes of white blood cells, present in the cow's milk. The measurement is

made for a percentage of herds enrolled in the Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

"There is a direct relation between the number of somatic cells in milk and the presence of mastitis," says Herbert C. Gilmore, Extension dairy specialist. "The normal cell count for a healthy cow is about 200,000 per milliliter of milk."

He points out that cell counts above 200,000 indicate an infection is present in the cow's udder. When the level goes to two million cells, a cow has a serious mastitis problem.

"When the leukocytes in the udder reach abnormal proportions, milk production is impaired. The largest drop, based on research, occurs when the cell count goes from 200,000 to 250,000 per milliliter of milk," Gilmore notes.

The Pennsylvania program, now being offered to 1000 herds, is designed to monitor the health status of every cow in these herds.

Initiated January 1, 1978, the Penn State program will not necessarily help those cows who already have mastitis problems. Dairymen use the test results to pinpoint cows that may be developing mastitis and then carry out measures to control the disease.

Gilmore says this system is another part of the regular

DHIA testing and record-keeping system. The DHIA supervisor collects the milk from each cow in the herd. Samples are shipped to the Penn State Central Milk Testing Laboratory where they are measured for butterfat and somatic cell content.

Two electronic machines record the leukocytes present in the milk. Up to 20 per cent of Pennsylvania's herds may be added to the program.

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## Hydroponics

(Continued from Page 120)

distributor for the hydroponics system which was developed by a company in Panama City, Fla. Paul Montgomery, his son explained the costs involved in

constructing a building. "The whole house comes in a kit which includes seeds, tubes, pumps, etc. This kit costs \$12,500. It supplies everything except the concrete and lumber for the growing tables." Paul said it would cost about \$17,000 to get the building up and running, that is if you pay someone to do it for you. After labor and costs your first years income should be in the \$10,000 neighborhood, he stated. The Montgomery's will replace their roof every two years. "It will cost a little over \$400 to replace the two layers on the roof. We can change the roof in two hours" Paul said.

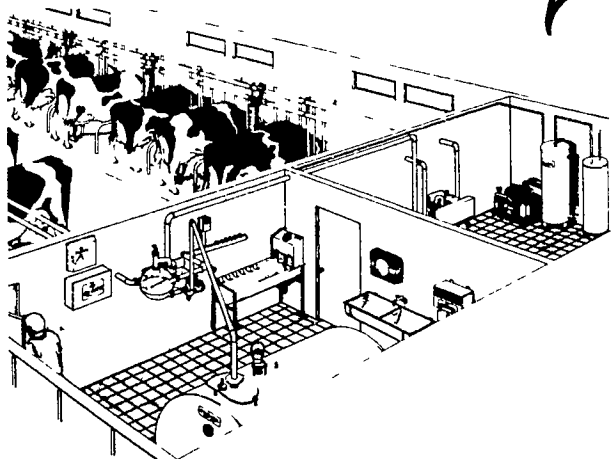
"The house takes up one-tenth of an acre and does the work of one acre" Paul said. "You can put six houses on one acre of land," he added.

Won't these houses overflow the vegetable market? According to Paul, "In the Philadelphia area, according to 1975 figures, they used 129 million pounds of tomatoes in one year. Even with a large number of houses, we'd only touch a small percentage of the market."

Paul said the "demand is great." People pay more for the tomatoes (the Montgomery's are getting about 70 cents per pound wholesale) "because they are aesthetically attractive, and vine ripened."

Presently there are two hydroponic houses in Lancaster County, and one in Chester County with two more being built.

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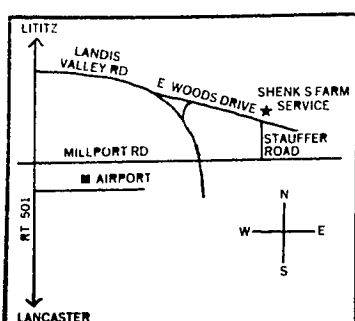
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