

High criteria

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healthy. "The first thing to look for when a sow comes in is whether she lays on her belly. If she does, it is a sign she is uncomfortable, doesn't want the pigs to nurse, and a problem that should be checked. Feeser said that if a sow is running a high temperature, or goes off feed, they will sometimes give her a shot of liquid aspirin.

To give the baby pigs access to liquid the first few days of birth, "we use the Day One dispenser." This is a vitamin, iron and neomycin supplement you put in solution. "They may get skinny, but it has saved a lot of pigs for us." Feeser also clips teeth, gives iron shots and



One of the several lots Feeser has for growing out his pigs. The pens in the background are constructed from heavy metal signs.

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ear notches the first day of birth, unless the baby pigs are really small. He gives the piglets 1½ cc iron and ½ cc Lincomix 50. Feeser injects this into the neck because you

are near the neck clipping teeth and also, there is "very little run back".

After farrowing, Feeser douches the sows with Uterine Care, 25 cc per sow. This cleans them out, helps eliminate hard udders, and "costs pennies". He also injects the sows with 2 cc oxytocin to "basically close up the vagina and keep infection out." As a preventative measure, he gives the sows a shot of azeum and combiotic.

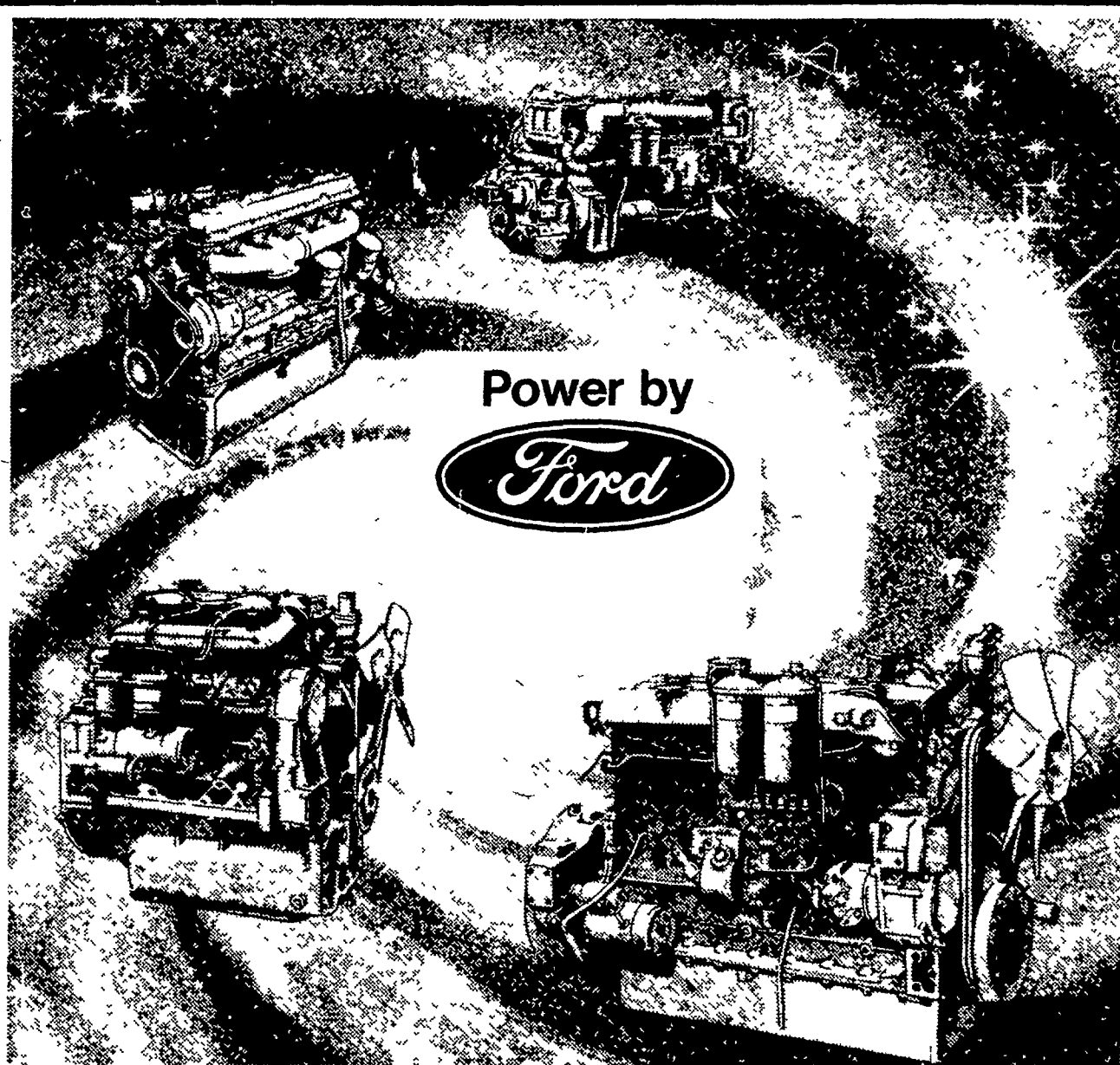
After two to three weeks (depending on the weather) in the farrowing pen, the sow and her litter is moved to a 12 pen, 24 sow capacity building. Two sows and their litters are placed in each pen. After five weeks, the sows will be moved out, and the piglets stay until they are 100 pounds. When they reach this weight they are divided and moved to another lot or building. Feeser said there is less stress on the baby pigs and they are better off by moving the sow, rather than her litter.

Last Fall, Feeser had his sows on self feeders and "they had very high milk production." He started hand feeding the sows because they were getting loose and producing too much milk.

Feeser tries to wash down feeders and pens in his finishing house between every crop of pigs. The house has louvered doors to keep the pigs' body heat in.

Sows are moved to an open sow unit with six to eight sows per lot. Feeser puts a boar between every couple pens. "In case I miss a few females in heat, it helps," he

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