

Pork Congress

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the convention center. In one of the rooms, the pork producers seemed to congregate around a hot dog grill where one of the exhibitors was cooking up free samples. In the other room, the crowds seemed to migrate to the ice arena.

The producers heard from various experts on new and old management rules. The experts ranged from college professors to panelist farmers who shared their experiences in growing hogs.

Professor Louis Moore presented an outlook for hogs and feed in 1980.

He pointed out that Pennsylvania ranks seventh in the nation for slaughtering hogs, killing 85 per cent of the hogs in the Northeast; and that the state has 34 per cent of the slaughter plants in the Northeast.

In a comparison with beef, he noted that the per capita consumption of pork was 70 pounds in 1979 and is predicted to go up three pounds, whereas beef, at 102 pounds, is predicted to drop by three.

Why the change in diet? According to Moore it's because of the \$1 per pound difference in price between the two meats.

When one of the producers questioned why Moore felt they should be happy about this situation, he said that with the lower price for pork in the supermarket, the consumers will continue to choose pork over beef.

And with the numbers of hogs on the production line showing no signs of

decreasing, the fact that consumers are buying will keep the hogs moving and they won't pile up. As a result, the price the farmer gets for the hogs won't drop.

Moore advised the producers to watch their feed, watch the supply of beef, watch their hog numbers, keep an eye on chicken, and keep an ear tuned to the general economy.

In the management seminars, hog producers learned about managing replacement gilts from John Hurtgen, a veterinarian from the University of Pennsylvania. Another veterinarian, Wally Brandt,

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Robert Hall was selected as the outstanding 4-H Swine producer. Presenting the award is Clyde Strook.



A taste tester prepares to sample some of the entries in the first annual lard recipe contest. Hard at work and keeping the trays full are Ann Arnold, Lebanon, forefront, and Sandy Bachman, Annville.

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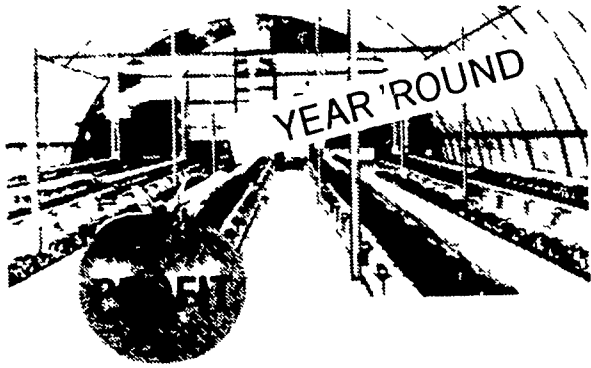
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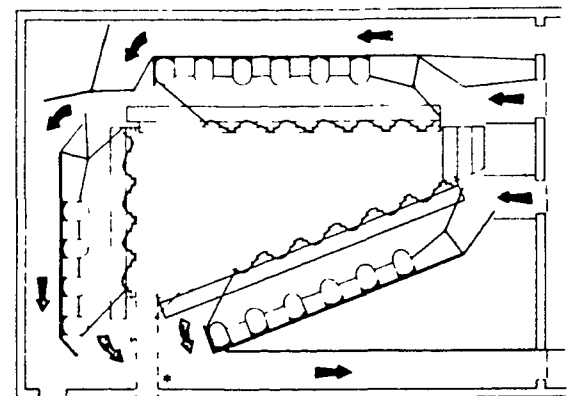
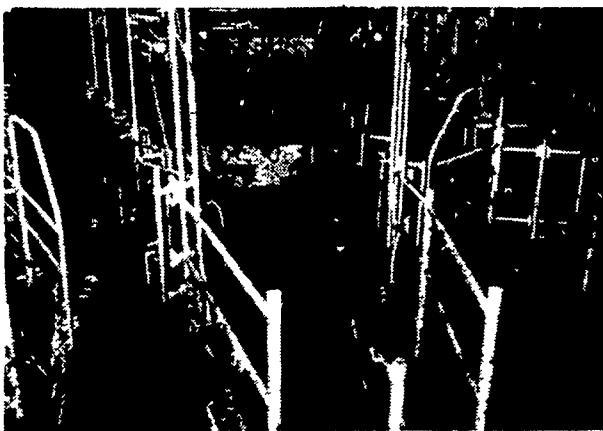
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