

Swine Conference

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the protein level in the hogs diet

more fat, the hogs will get the additional energy needed to synthesize more lean tissue. However, if the

amino acids, lysine and arginine, are not balanced properly, fat will be laid down instead. Another Purina spokesperson, Bruce Mc-

Clain, DVM, spoke to the group on hog diseases.

When I asked a similar group what their biggest swine disease problem was, they told me baby pig scours. Actually, that disease is probably an improvement for the hog industry because it kills off enough pigs to keep the market high," he laughed.

On a more serious note, McClain discussed African swine fever, noting that this disease may soon be seen in the US whether swine producers like it or not.

The disease, he said, is now in the Dominican Republic, and was in Cuba in 1971. He told how the Cubans tried to control the disease by complete eradication of the swine population. But their kill-clean up-repopulate method has not been completely successful because of recent reports of the disease being detected in Cuba, he said.

Symptoms of the disease are depression, weakness, cyanosis (red blood blotches show up on ears and body), coughing, diarrhea, vomiting, going down, and finally death. All of this occurs over a three day period.

Swine autopsied that died from African swine fever showed spleens twice the normal size, the effect of the organ trying to clean up the blood, said McClain. Kidneys were brown with red hemorrhages dotting the

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surface — he described them as looking like turkey eggs.

Afflicted sows tend to abort their litters at any stage of their pregnancy, he said.

McClain also reviewed for the group the disease acute hemophilus pleuropneumonia, or 'rotten lung'.

In this disease, the lungs fill with blood and become attached to the chest cavity. Sudden death strikes the victims to this bacteria-caused disease.

"A producer can be walking through his barn and not notice anything wrong on his trip down the aisle, and on his way back he'll find dead pigs. The animals suffocate and drown," explained the veterinarian.

He added the afflicted hogs, if watched closely, can be seen to be breathing very fast, with rapid, shallow breaths. This is caused because, with the lung pasted on to the ribs, the animal is in severe pain every time it breathes deeply — the lung tears away from the chest cavity just as in pleurisy in humans.

McClain also touched on pseudorabies, a topic of interest to many of the hog producers. The disease, caused by a Herpes virus, is a dead-end disease for cattle, dogs, cats, and sheep, where hogs tend to recover from it, he said.

He emphasized the fact that the disease causes abortions, and that cattle afflicted with pseudorabies

literally scratch themselves to death.

In summing up swine diseases and preventative health, McClain emphasized the need to be super clean. "Practice the all in/all out method of filling your hog houses, along with the best sanitation methods available. And be careful not to track something home when you take your hogs to market."

The hog producers then heard from O W Robison, professor of animal science and genetics at North Carolina State University.

According to Robison, heterosis is the key to producing hogs. He claimed that through research, the crossbred hogs showed a 10 percent increase in weight over purebred hogs.

His data also found crossbreds to be more efficient breeders from both a physiological and physiological viewpoint — larger testes for more sperm production, and more sex drive.

Other traits attributed to his crossbred-is-better theory include lower back fat, faster gains, and more efficient feed conversion, according to Robison.

Closing out the management program, DeGoey stressed the need for producers to work on saving the 25 percent of their pig litters that are lost prior to weaning. He said there is a need to keep the pigs healthy — with the proper antibiotics and feed, and comfortable — warm and out of drafts — SM.

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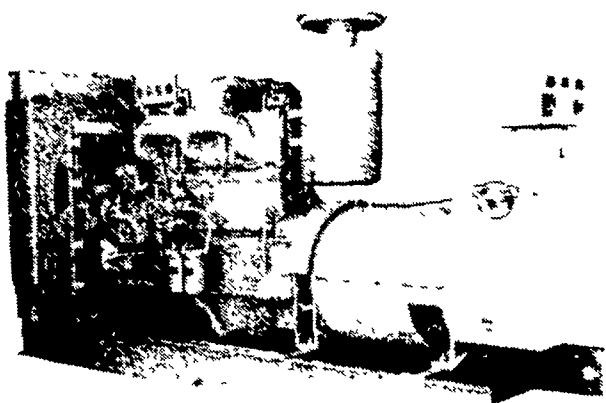
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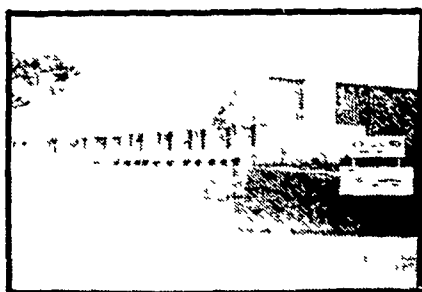


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Plainfield Farmer's Fair set for this week

BANGOR — Over 25 events ranging from a watermelon eating contest to a tractor pull will highlight the activities at this year's Plainfield Farmer's Fair in Northampton County.

The Fair will run from July 23 through 26 at the Plainfield Farmer's Grove on Route 191, five miles south of Bangor.

The always-popular tractor pulling contest will be held Thursday evening at 7. A four-wheel drive pull on Wednesday evening at 8, and a garden tractor pull on Friday evening at 7, also will be held.

The Black and White cattle show in Northampton

County's annual Holstein show, will begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday with judging to take place at 1 p.m.

Youth cattle judging will be on Friday and a newly added youth sheep show and steer show will take place on Saturday.

A pie eating contest is set for Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. and a watermelon eating contest for Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

For those with moderate appetites, there will be a chicken bar-b-que Friday and Saturday evenings.

There will be exhibits and demonstrations throughout all four days of the fair.

Lancaster FFA hog show, sale

LANCASTER — The Lancaster County FFA Market Hog Show and Sale will be held on Thursday, July 31, at the Lancaster Stockyards.

The show will be held from 8 to 11 a.m., followed by the sale at 1:30 p.m. Approximately 200 hogs are expected to be sold.

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