

## Swine research

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formation and carcass information from litter mates. About one-fourth of each farrowing group includes the gilts.

A research trial was conducted on vaccination for rhinitis, which showed a good response to use of the vaccine. Sows are vaccinated three weeks before farrowing. Animals are submitted regularly for slaughter inspection to determine any turbinate damage. No obvious signs of rhinitis have been seen in the pigs.

Another study compared two iron injections in pigs on the third and 17th day as compared to one oral application.

"We found that not all pigs

uniformly consume the oral iron," Dr. Pearl said.

The naval cords are sprayed with iodine at three days, along with clipping needle teeth and tails. Waiting until the third day helps to reduce stress on the small pigs, according to Dr. Pearl.

Worming is also still done despite the confinement.

For breeding, the farm uses a module crate and pen system - five crates to a boar pen. Between each sow module is one for gilts.

"We've found that one of the problems of confinement is getting the gilts stimulated to come into heat," Dr. Pearl said. "Anything that can be done, such as putting the gilts between the sows and boars,

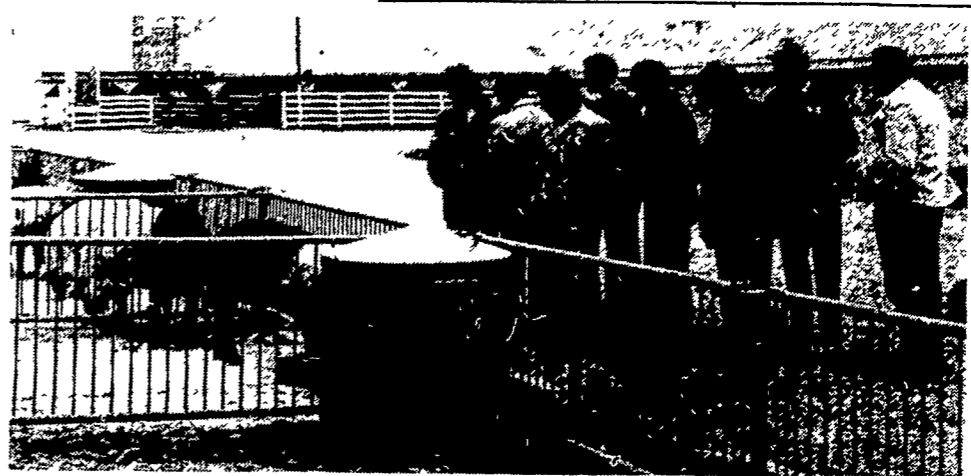
will help. Even rotating the gilts around the breeding area is helpful - anything to shake them up."

Gilts that don't come into heat their first time are culled.

Sow reproductive records show 727 animals with 10.9 pigs farrowed per litter, birth weight of 2.96 lbs., 79.1 percent weaning rate and weaned weight of 12.23 lbs.

"We wean at three weeks," according to Dr. Pearl, "and find less competition among the younger pigs. One area of future research will be a feeding program concentrating on that first week of weaning when the pig is going from liquid to solid food."

Another research trial is trying the substitution of sunflower meal for a portion of the soybean meal for pigs.



Two new boars, in foreground, just purchased for breeding studies are viewed by group.

Three different treatments include substituting a quarter, half and three-quarters of the meal.

"We're early in these tests, but it appears that the sunflower meal has some effect on helping to control scours," Dr. Pearl said.

"It appears to be better digested by the small pigs." Some tests have also been conducted on the feeding of high fat diets. There appears to be a six to seven percent improvement in the utilization of feed with the high fat, but the cost per pound of gain is increased.

The research farm also has a small operating still, making 100-proof ethanol from corn. Two diesel tractors on the farm have been converted for its use.

Stillage, with only some of the water drained away, is

being fed to one group of feeder cattle. Their performance will be compared to a control group, also on a corn silage ration. Ten pounds of the stillage is being fed per day.

Thus far, use of the stillage is permitting about a 25

percent reduction in the protein supplement normally fed.

And, it was dry in Illinois this year, too. Normally, the farm yields 185 bushels of corn, but this year it dropped to 106. Average for the state is about 80 bushels this year.

## Broiler placements up

HARRISBURG — Placements of broiler chicks in the Commonwealth during the week ending October 11 were 2,164,000, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The placements were 14 percent above the corresponding week a year earlier, but three percent below the previous week. Average placements during the past nine weeks were ten

percent above a year earlier.

Placements in the 21 key poultry producing states were 71,263,000, three percent below the previous week and two percent below the same week a year ago.

Broiler-fryers slaughtered in Pennsylvania under federal inspection during the week ending October 1 totaled 1,813,000, with an average liveweight of 4.02 pounds.



There are smiles all around as Agway sales study group discusses ethanol still operation on research farm.

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