

III. swine operation using modified live virus

AUBURN, IL. — Lancaster County and neighboring areas only got a taste of pseudorabies this year compared to some sections of the Midwest.

The large farrow-to-finishing operation of Philip Snell and Son in southern Illinois is one example.

The Snells maintain an average of 680 sows, including about 100 gilts, which are being sorted out for movement into the herd.

"When the pseudorabies got into the herd, we found about 50 percent of the sows aborting," according to Jim Six, herdsman for the Snell operation.

"To control the disease we're using a modified live virus, which is strictly controlled by the state and our veterinarian."

Discussion of the pseudorabies experience, along with review of a solar heating system and a feeding program that features high moisture corn, were highlights of a swine trip of Agway sales personnel to Illinois last week.

Participating Agway personnel included John Harner, Richard Myer, Francis Strause, Ray Wallace, Robert Weller, Joseph Heeg and Henry Zajac.

The modified live virus being used at the Snell operation is described as not being as virulent or potent as the normal live variety.

The state controls its use and only in cases where pseudorabies has been definitely diagnosed as a serious problem.

"We can't vaccinate any time we want," Six explained.

"Also, we must contact the state each time we sell pigs



Large Harvestore on the Snell farm at Auburn, Ill. provide mountains of high moisture corn needed for 680-sow operation.

and it must be to someone who doesn't have sows or doesn't intend to keep sows."

The Snells are also prohibited from selling breeding stock.

The use of the modified live virus is being limited to the sows in the Snell operation. The sows, prior to farrowing, receive two doses. The pigs are not inoculated.

"It's costing us \$3 a sow for the inoculations, but that's a lot better than aborting 50 percent of the herd," Six said.

The Snell farm features a hot water copper coil solar collection system in the roof of the nursery and breeding building.

The water is stored in an underground tank area beneath the building workshop and is utilized in conjunction with a backup

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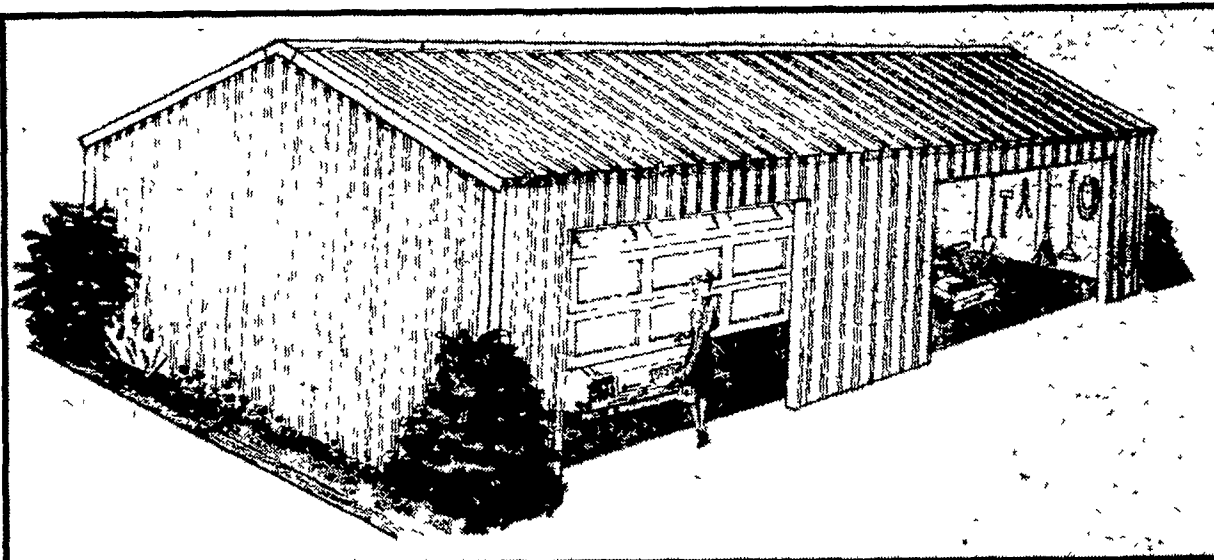
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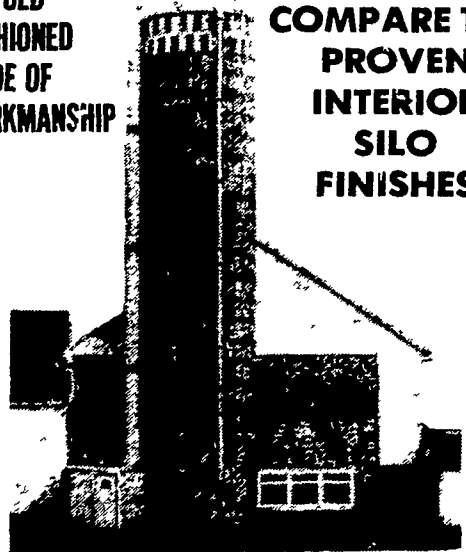
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