

# Parasites cost hogmen \$1 per pig

**HARRINGTON, Del.** — External parasites cost hog producers about \$1 per animal marketed. The hog louse and mange mite are the major causes of these losses, says University of Delaware extension livestock manager, Richard Fowler. Controlling these pests is an important part of herd management.

The hog louse is visible as it hangs on hair and behind the ears of pigs. It doesn't burrow into the skin, but as it feeds on blood and lymph tissue it does cause irritation that makes the pig itch.

Restlessness and scratching lower feed intake and reduce feed efficiency. Young pigs severely affected by lice can actually become anemic, says Fowler. Lice are also capable of carrying swine pox virus.

The parasite can survive for up to three days off the pig if there's a warm place for it to live. The adult

female lays about 100 eggs over a 25-day period. As eggs hatch, the immature lice feed on the soft tissue of the pig.

In contrast to the hog louse, the mange mite isn't visible to the naked eye. The most common mite found on swine, it burrows well into the top layer of skin.

An adult female mange mite lays 15 to 45 eggs during a 15-day period. These are deposited in tunnels in the skin and mature to adults in 10 to 15 days.

Mite infestations are usually first noticed in the inner ear. From there they spread over the head, neck and body. Mite activity increases with higher temperatures. Intense itching usually results, causing pigs to spend a lot of time scratching on fences, feeders and buildings.

Both mange mites and hog lice are found only on swine. Pig-to-pig contact is the

chief means of spreading. To be successful, treatment must interrupt the life cycle of either pest. Treating the sow is the best way to prevent transmission to the baby pigs. Some of the chemicals used for control shouldn't be used on animals under weaning age, cautions the specialist.

Spray sows routinely with malathion six weeks before farrowing. An additional spray treatment four weeks before farrowing will provide satisfactory control.

Since the mange mite burrows into the skin, surface applications need to be made under pressure. Use 200 pounds of pressure when spraying to force the insecticide into tunnels. Apply two to four quarts of the spray and be sure to get good coverage around the head and neck. Eradication is very difficult. But routine spraying keeps pests under control.

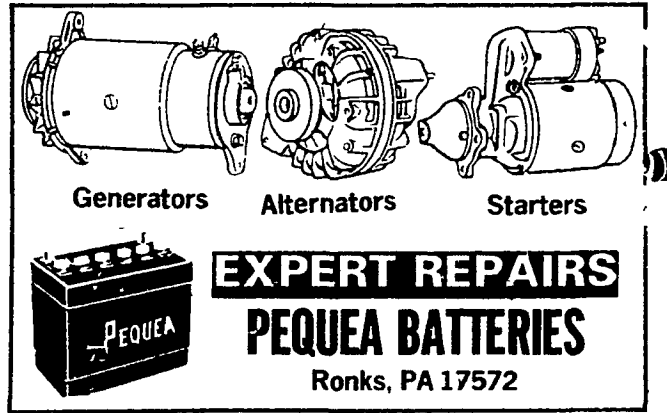
Maintain control on growing finishing pigs by spraying. Treat animals eight weeks old with a spray and follow it up two weeks later with another treatment. Malathion dust provides some control if spraying isn't possible.

If you use bedding on your swine, treat it with an approved insecticide according to label directions. Some of the new pour-ons are safe to use on lactating sows.

During cold weather, don't spray young pigs. Use dust and apply it to the bedding as well. If spraying is

necessary during cold weather, choose a calm, sunny day when the temperature is above freezing, he says.

Read the label on all products and follow directions for safe, effective treatment. Observe withdrawal periods and application rates. Do not over-treat, he advises.



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## Broiler placements up

**HARRISBURG** — Placements of broiler chickens in the Commonwealth during the week ending October 25 were 2,148,000, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The placements were ten percent above the corresponding week a year earlier, but four percent below the previous week. Average placements during the past nine weeks were 13 percent above a year earlier.

Placements in the 21 key

poultry producing states were 76,203,000, one percent below the previous week but weight percent above the same week a year ago. Average placements during the past nine weeks were three percent above a year earlier.

Broiler-fryers slaughtered in Pennsylvania under federal inspection during the week ending October 15 totaled 1,938,000, with an average liveweight of 4.10 pounds.

## ANNOUNCING AN ORGANIC EDUCATIONAL MEETING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1980

1:30 - 3:30 P.M. and 7:30 - 9:00 P.M.

PLACE - BLUE BALL FIRE HALL, ON RT. 322, 1 BLOCK EAST OF RED LIGHT, BLUE BALL, PA., 12 MILES EAST OF LANCASTER

One teacher will be Ray Nielson, a well experienced researcher and past farmer now with National Ag Products Development Inc. at Grand Rapids, Mich. We are not definite yet on other teachers.

Aflatoxin and Mycotoxin in corn is harmful and disastrous to livestock and poultry. Authorities say it shouldn't be fed. It is getting worse every year. Some farmers are refused a market.

Come and learn the easy, natural way to prevent pestilence, disease and nematodes, etc.

Learn a simple inexpensive method of breaking hardpan better and cheaper than chiseling, to let the excess rainwater down and prevent erosion, and get rid of swamps. Water stored in broken subsoil will seep up again when needed. This year proved it.

Learn how to grow nearly enough protein for your livestock by just increasing the protein in your corn and hay.

Learn how to conserve moisture in soil so that crops don't mind an average drought.

Learn why livestock do better for organic farmers.

Learn how to have vegetables ripen earlier with more flavor and keeping qualities and stand a harder frost.

Learn which fertilizer, cationic or anionic, to use to make a big stalk and which to use to make much fruit or grain

Above is not just dreams. That is why there are at least 11 or more organic fertilizer dealers in Lancaster County. We can start you selling in your county. Crop results sell, no need for gift of gab. It is pleasant work to help farmers survive.

## ORGANIC VEGETABLES WANTED

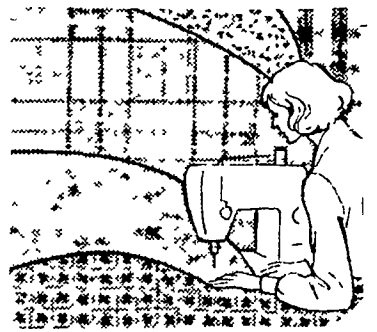
Buyers will be at the meeting from the cities who want quantities of certified organic vegetables at 10% to 15% premium price, and huge quantity of partly organic. Restaurants and stores are learning organic is better. Talk with the buyers from 3:30 to 7:30. Tell other farmers who like to grow vegetables. New Holland cantaloupe growers discovered that volume production brings the buyers around.

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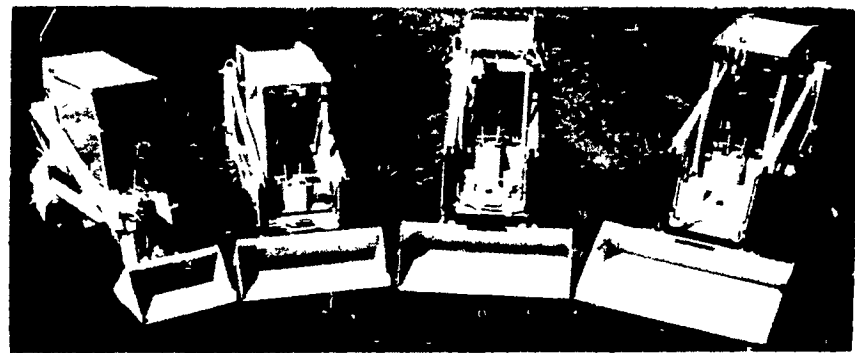
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