

who, with his wife
be managing the
tion, is not new to
he was raised near
and practiced
medicine after
g from Ohio State
ty Veterinary
last year as a
of the team from
umal Hospital in

on his medical
e, Trayer has
designing one of
est housing
ents for raising
ng to deal with
or problems —
moisture and
-al temperature
ited out that the
was designed with
floors only in the
and gestation area
: floors being in
-the four farrowing
id six nurseries
ted the sows and
i concrete floors in
tion and breeding
rder to avoid leg
problems. However,
in the other rooms
controlling the
al count and
g bad knees in

e Cocalco complex
swing, explained

Trayer, he will be "cleaning
out 20 sows from the
farrowing rooms every
week." The pigs are weaned
off the sows 3 weeks after
they are born and are raised
in nurseries until they are 8
weeks old.
Then, it's out into the cold,
cruel work for the pigs —



Dr. Trayer explains the Fristamat ventilator's ability to conserve energy, eliminate drafts and moisture, and its unique air intake and exhaust system.

away from the aseptic-as-
possible conditions they
were raised in at the com-
plex.

Barrows will be fed to
market weight by corporate
members who have the
facilities, and will be trucked
to Hatfield Packing under
contract. The gilts will be
sold as breeding stock to
Eugene Martin, taking their
place in his shower-in-and-
out facility located nearby
along Route 897.

In designing the building,
Trayer mentioned, the
complex was purposely laid
out to prevent possible
contamination of the hogs
from outside diseases. He
said he, along with everyone
else who enters the complex,
showers and changes into
barn clothes before entering
the building for chores. An
isolation room separates the
rest of the building from
possible disease exposure
during the time when the
pigs are being loaded on to a
truck when leaving the
complex.

Trayer admitted however
the complex was not per-
fect. He said the building
does not provide adequate
isolation for new sows or
boars being introduced in to
the breeding stock.

One area where Trayer
said his philosophy on
raising hogs differ from
some hog farmers is in
stressing sows into heat. He
was adamant when he said
he doesn't believe in it.

We feed the sow to her
full capacity to get the
condition for breeding and
gestation. I don't stress the
sow to get her to cycle — she
gets enough stress just
through weaning."

Trayer also said he
believes in giving his young
boars a vacation. He said
he'll be using DeKalb
boars four times a week for
breeding sows also from
DeKalb.

"I give them 2 weeks off to
let their sperm count build
back up. But while they're on
vacation, I'll be using them
for heat detection on my
pregnant sows.

He explained all the sows
will be kept together as a
group, from breeding to
farrowing, with a specific
color-coded record system
keeping track of their in-
dividual feed rations, health
care, etc. (If a sow comes
back into heat, and she is re-
colored-coded with the group
being bred at the time).

Feeding is another area
where Hybred Pork Inc.
differs from many
operations. Trayer pointed
to an automatic feeding
system that eliminates the
problems that go along with
hand feeding 400 bred sows.

"With this system, all the
sows get fed at once. It takes
the stress off them hand
feeding crates — they don't
go crazy waiting for the feed
to reach the far end of the
trough."

Trayer explained the only

hand feeding done in the
complex is done in the
farrowing room.

"Any irregularities here in
feeding could throw the sows
off, resulting in milk
production problems. I don't
feed the sows the day of
farrowing, and only give
them one or two pounds the
next day. I'll increase the
feed then as their appetites
increase.

Trayer pointed out there
will be no heated floors in the
farrowing rooms or nur-
series. He said the building
will be at a minimum of 65
degrees, with the nursery
and farrowing rooms
ranging in temperature from
70 to 95 degrees, depending
on the stage and age of the
baby pigs.

The ventilation system
throughout the complex
comes from Denmark, said
Trayer. The Fristamat
ventilator, he pointed out, is
designed to help conserve
heat and energy when
needed by closing a damper.
And, instead of having fans
pulling air from one side of a
building to another (cold
coming in and warming up
by the time it reaches the far
side), this system brings air
in from the ceiling, with
intake and exhaust being
done by one beveled blade.
This system, said Trayer,
removes the moisture in the
building and eliminates the
problems of drafts.

The manure, in all areas of

the complex, is handled
through gravity flow gutters.
Trayer said at least six in-
ches of water will be on top
of the manure to help keep
down the odor in the
building.

After the plug is pulled, the
manure flows through a PVC
pipe to an underground
storage tank and then out to
a lagoon. The manure in the
lagoon, he said, will be
covered over with straw to
increase the nitrogen con-
tent and control odors. It will
then be spread on Eugene
Martin's land, bordering the
corporation site.

When thinking about going
into an enterprise like
Hybred's, keep this in mind.
The cost of the complex
equipment will run about
\$1000 per sow, according to
Trayer. And he estimates the
cost of running the operation
to figure out close to this
amount each year.

By putting their heads and
ideas together, the members
and employees of Hybred
Pork Inc. are off and running
the race for profitable pork.



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