

Is swine A.I. for you?

UNIVERSITY PARK — Thinking about using artificial insemination in your breeding swine operation? V.G. Pursel of USDA's swine research station in Beltsville, Md., recommends producers weigh the pros and cons of A.I. in swine before plunging in whole hog.

Some advantages of A.I., noted Pursel during the Dairy and Livestock Day held on the Penn State campus Monday, are:

- greater use of superior boars,
- introducing new breeding lines with less disease risk (most diseases spread through nose-to-nose contact, not through semen,
- large boars can be used to breed gilts, and
- a large number of sows can be

bred in a short time to farrow at the same time.

Pursel also pointed out, in the swine industry, A.I. has to be a do-it-yourself task in order to keep on-farm traffic to a minimum. And heat checking sows and gilts is a time-consuming job.

Another drawback to A.I. in swine is the lower fertility rate and smaller litter size that's produced as compared to natural servicing. Comparable rates and numbers are possible, said the researcher, but only under perfect conditions.

One of the major steps in A.I. is collecting and storing semen. Pursel explained boars are taught to mount "dummy" sows and are collected, producing 250 c.c. of ejaculate in 5 minutes (compared

to a bull's 5-8 c.c.)

The semen is then divided into the number of desired doses and placed in 1-2 ounce screw-top bottles. These bottles are then filled with an extender, such as BL1 (developed at Beltsville) or IVT.

Other types of extenders include skim milk, which stores semen for up to 8 hours, and egg-yolk glucose which keeps the semen for a day after collection.

Pursel explained the bottles of semen and extender are then placed in a Styrofoam box and stored at 58-64 degrees Fahrenheit until the gilts and sows are to be bred.

Advantages of being able to store semen for longer periods of time, and even freezing semen, include:

- samples of the semen could be tested for pathogenic organisms;
- semen storage could be limited to disease-free, fertility-tested boars, and
- semen of "good quality" could be used only.

Pursel confessed the technique of freezing swine semen has not been perfected. A.I. with frozen semen results in a still smaller litter size and a lower pregnancy rate.

The researcher recommended swine breeders consider using frozen semen of top boars only on

20 cows die from dairy disease

MONTROSE — Pennsylvania dairymen are warned to be on the lookout for revival of an old disease that can bring on pneumonia, systemic infections, abortions and even infertility if not caught in time.

The name of the disease is haemophilus somnus.

Dr. Lawrence J. Hutchinson, Penn State extension veterinarian, says H. somnus is not yet

widespread in the state, but it is on the increase, usually appearing as pneumonia in calves and heifers. As many as two herd infections have been reported in a single week.

Hank Swartz, who operates Loudon Hill Farms, Susquehanna County, says the disease hit 80 head of his cattle recently. Twenty died before vaccination brought the outbreak under control.

Antibiotic treatment has been "fairly successful" if treatment is started early in the course of the disease, Dr. Hutchinson says. However, he recommends vaccination for herds in which the disease has been diagnosed.

One of the problems with H. somnus is that its symptoms can be mistaken for other, more widely-known diseases unless special culture techniques are used to isolate it.

Such techniques are available at state labs, as well as labs at Penn State and the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Hutchinson says.

their best females. Then, future breeding boars could be selected from this smaller but better number of offspring.

As in the cattle industry, Pursel noted the development of estrus and ovulation control is being studied as a tool to improve on A.I. techniques. However, he concluded so far there has been little difference in fertility and litter size between synchronized and non-synchronized animals bred naturally. A larger litter size only has been realized when breeding with frozen semen. -SM

Sheep

(Continued from Page A42)

having more lambs, produced more pounds of lamb. Over three years, the Finnsheep produced 261 pounds of lamb where the Suffolks had 219 pounds.

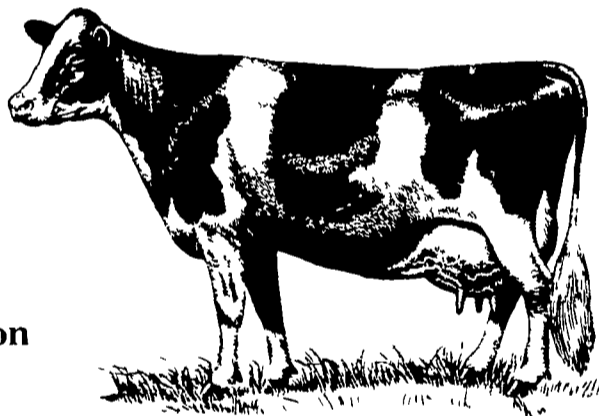
Producers will have to assess their facilities and their labor when choosing a breed that produces litters rather than twins, Katsigianis stressed.

He noted artificially reared lambs always weighed 10 pounds lighter than their siblings reared

on the ewe, and they took 172 days to reach slaughter weight as compared to 150 days for a twin and 137 days for a single. The artificial rearing, he pointed out, did not affect carcass traits.

In the final slaughter analysis, the Finnsheep-cross lambs took longer to reach slaughter weight and had more kidney fat and a slightly smaller rib eye than the Suffolk-cross lambs. -SM

LANCASTER COUNTY DAIRYMEN:



IT'S A FACT: chances are better than 9 out of 10 that your herd of slick, high-producing cows is infected with roundworms. Here are five more facts you should know about worms, the production losses they can cause, and how to help stop them with TBZ, the prefreshening cattle wormer.

FACT 1—Most wormy cows "look healthy" because they eat enough to feed the worms AND to keep themselves looking good. University, Extension and other scientists have proved over 90 percent of all cattle are wormy, even in cold, northern climates.

FACT 2—Worms can cut production, even in top herds, by as much as 400 to 500 pounds per head per lactation... shown in trials in Wisconsin, Vermont and other dairy states.

FACT 3—One out of four dairymen now worm routinely, and thousands

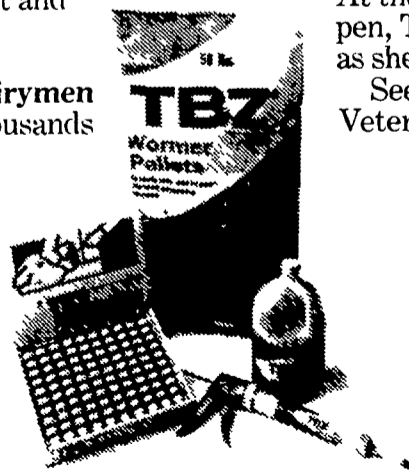
more are beginning every year.

FACT 4—Worming each cow with TBZ before she calves lets her begin lactation clean, and helps make peak production possible all through lactation.

FACT 5—TBZ is a one-dose, one-time worming treatment available in paste, bolus, suspension and pellet forms.

At the stanchion or in the calving pen, TBZ makes worming each cow as she freshens simple, easy, quick.

See your Dealer, Feed Supplier or Veterinarian today.



TBZ...

PREFRESHENING DAIRY WORMER

TBZ (tribendazole) is a registered trademark of Merck & Co., Inc.



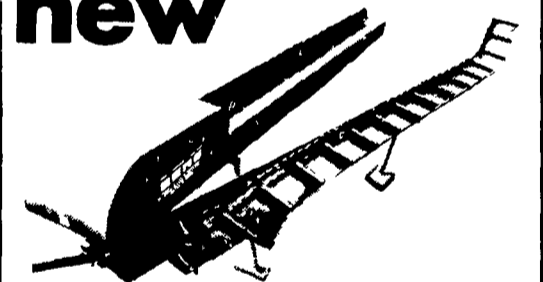
Machine Work
Welding &
Farm Supplies
Hardware

D.S. MACHINE SHOP

3816 E NEWPORT RD
RD 1 GORDONVILLE, PA 17529
1 Mile East of Intercourse on Rt. 772
Write or Try and Call 717-768-8569
(Outside Phone)

- Victor or Meco Cutting Torches
- Lincoln Welders
- Custom Built High Pressure Washers
- Coal Fired Bucket-A-Day Stoves
- New & Used Structural Pipe
- Hog & Cattle Gates

something new



the Berg Split Chute

The most important forward step in durable, efficient barn cleaning since the development of the barn cleaner itself. By eliminating a reverse curve and one corner wheel it reduces water tension and adjustment problems and gives you more dependable performance. The return chute is full width for greatest cleaning efficiency. The Berg Split Chute as well as the Berg Conventional Chute can be used with any manure stacker or thrower. The new Berg 3 inch flites move a third more liquid and reduce roll back problems. Write or phone for more details about this exceptional new equipment.



SEE YOUR LOCAL BERG DEALER

ROVENDALE SUPPLY
RD 2,
Watertown, PA 17777
717-538-5521

DONALD UPPERMAN
1126 N. Franklin St
Chambersburg, Pa
717-264-6007

CLAIR C. BEATTY
RD 4, Box 188A
Indiana, Pa 15701
412-465-7368

R. LAMAR HACKMAN
RD 2,
Mifflinburg, Pa. 17844
717-524-4901

AARON ZIMMERMAN
RD 1,
East Earl, Pa 17519
215-445-5309

ROBERT GUTSHALL
RD 1,
Womelsdorf, Pa 19567
717-933-4616

DOMBACH EQUIPMENT INC.
McAllisterville,
Pa 17049
717-463-2191

AREA REPRESENTATIVE CHESTER INGRAM
RD 2,
Bellefonte, Pa 16822
(Hublersburg)
814-383-2798