

Farm Business News

Offers hog feeding unit

MILFORD, Ind. — Chore-Time Equipment, Inc., introduced a new hog feeding concept at the National Pork Congress held last week in Kansas City, Missouri. The new concept, called Meal-Time feeding, is reported to add 15 to 20 percent to a producer's net profit per pig by improving feed conversion by five percent or more.

The company says the concept is the most unique and advanced hog feeding system to come along in over 40 years.

The feeding system is the result of four years of sponsored research at Purdue University. Meal-Time feeding was compared to conventional free-choice feeding, measuring differences in digestive processes and growth patterns of hogs. Actual feeding unit construction and confinement factors as they relate to hogs were also evaluated. The results found a need to change the way in which hogs are being fed — showing that the eating habits of free-choice fed

hogs cause feed to be literally forced through their digestive system before the full nutritional value can be absorbed. As a result, free-choice fed hogs have to eat more feed to get the nutrients needed to make each pound of gain.

To overcome this wasteful consumption of feed, the new feeding system provides hogs "meals" with an automated feed delivery system two or three times each day. These programmed feeding periods last approximately two to three hours, allowing hogs to have all the feed they want for that period. This is followed by a six to nine hour rest period which gives

more time for digestion and absorption of the available nutrients.

The result is less feed to add a pound of gain. Research shows the saving can amount to an average of 34 pounds of feed per hog marketed.

Improve feed conversion by hogs on the system is aided also because they become conditioned so that they know when feeding periods are near.

They tend to be more content and docile during their rest periods than hogs fed free-choice. And less movement results in fewer calories burned off due to excess activity and fighting, the firm claims.



Shown here is the Stage III feeding unit, for hogs from 85 pounds to finish. At this stage, hogs are provided with two feeding periods each approximately three hours long. Water is available with each feeding period through five stainless steel water nipples located directly above the feed pan.

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