

## Hog and pig report seen as good news

DES MOINES, IA. — USDA's hog and pig report which showed a nine percent reduction in numbers and an 11 percent drop in breeding stock was termed "good news for pork producers" by the National Pork Producers Council.

"We feel producers are headed in the right direction towards fewer numbers and lower market weights," said Orville Sweet, executive vice president of NPPC, "however, we hope the industry has learned from its past mistakes and will not over react to this first bit of good news."

Sweet referred to the previous reports by economists which predicted high market prices for hogs in early 1981 which led producers to hold their hogs in anticipation of higher profits.

As a result, heavy hogs and an

emotional reaction to the December report caused over supply and market prices to drop

"This current report is an indication that we have an opportunity to escape from the red ink situation experience by most pork producers in the last several months," said Sweet "However, we won't celebrate too quickly because we will still be vulnerable to psychology and emotional reaction in the market place for the next year."

For the consumer there is still good news, stable supplies of pork should continue throughout the year

"In fact," said Sweet, "the long range supply of pork is better assured if there is profitability in the industry."

## Corn yield

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where high water-retention soils are well suited to growing corn. They are a breakthrough in the East where average on-farm corn yields are below 100 bushels an acre.

While such management practices as row spacing, method and timing of fertilization application, insect and weed control, and liming are important to the study, Flannery singles out irrigation as the most vital

He points out that the record yield was achieved on a Freehold

sandy loam soil at the Soils and Crop Research Center, part of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station of Rutgers University, at Adelphia, N.J., in one of the hottest and driest summers on record.

Flannery and Woodard used plastic tubing for trickle irrigation in the research plots—a system that uses less water, more effectively, than overhead irrigation systems. The trickle system puts the moisture near the root system of the plant where it is needed, and little water is lost through

evaporation into the air.

Total rainfall for the New Jersey site of the research was 14.9 inches from May through September. The researchers added 10.6 more inches of water through irrigation, bringing the total of 25.5.

Flannery also stresses the importance of insect and weed control, areas that he calls "very critical," and said they kept these two factors as ideal as possible for the study.

He also puts emphasis on the importance of liming, pointing out that 1500 pounds of total oxides per acre were applied between sampling and planting; limestone was broadcast and plowed down.

The research encompasses the "total package" concept that Agway has been promoting over the years, according to Flannery.

Flannery is quick to say that conditions used in the research probably are not feasible for farmers, but results do show that northeastern farms have the potential for considerably higher corn yields.

## Irwin named

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Guidance Award through the National Association of County Agricultural Extension Agents for his service to youth.

In the following year, he was honored by the Pennsylvania Association of Farm Cooperatives, receiving the Master Educator Award

In recognition of conducting innovative educational programs, Irwin received the National County Agent Association's Achievement Award in 1975.

Born and raised on a general dairy and poultry farm in the Altoona area, Irwin graduated from Penn State in 1949 with a degree in agricultural economics

His first assignment was as a teacher in a GI Agricultural Training Program in Blair County

He then assumed a series of agribusiness career assignments, serving in managerial posts with the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau in Punxsutawney, Venango and Westmoreland County Following the merger with Agway, he became a unit manager in Westmoreland County

In July of 1967, Irwin joined the Lancaster County Extension staff as assistant county agent. He was named associate county agent in 1968 and became a county agent in June of 1976.

In his many poultry industry activities, Irwin serves as advisor to the Lancaster County Poultry Association's Board of Directors He is a Capitol Region Director of the Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Agents He is an Elder and Trustee of the Bethany Presbyterian Church of Lancaster.

Irwin becomes the third in line of leaders of Lancaster County Extension that began with the late Floyd "Dutch" Bucher back in 1913 and continued through the just-completed 44 years of Max Smith

"I will work toward upholding the high standards of Extension activities and service that began under Dutch and continued under Max," Irwin said

"Educational activities are becoming more and more important in today's agriculture, not only explaining the true role of our farm families but helping them keep abreast of the rapidly changing agricultural technologies

"We have a tremendous natural resource here in Lancaster County in our agriculture and it is up to all of us to continue working together to make it used to the best

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