



Ask the VMD

Leon Riegel Synthea Maas Tim Trayer Edgar Sheaffer

If you have a question you would like to have answered by the team of veterinarians at Valley Animal Hospital, Palmyra, and Dr. Tim Trayer, Denver, send it to "Ask the VMD", Lancaster Farming Newspaper, Box 366, Lititz, PA 17543. Questions will be kept anonymous on request.

Making bacon artificially

I have two sows that I would like to have artificially bred. We live in Berks County and have had no luck in finding anyone who knows how to artificially inseminate hogs. Can you help us find such a service?

Warren P. Baker
Bethel

Dr. Trayer comments:

The industry of artificial insemination in swine is not as advanced or well developed as it is in dairy and beef cattle for several reasons

First, the industry is fairly new when compared to the dairy and beef industry.

Secondly, there is a lack of skilled, experienced AI technicians available.

Thirdly, results from AI have been varied in different swine operations and situations, so that AI is not advancing as rapidly as it has in the dairy and beef industries

One of the primary problems appears to be with the variability in conception and litters farrowed from AI services, compared to natural services in the swine industry. Whether this is related to the aforementioned areas or some other reproductive fact we haven't identified is unknown.

Various individuals feel strongly one way or the other about AI and

its application in the swine industry. Those who have excellent or good results feel very strongly for its use and, of course, those with poor results feel the other way.

This is not to say the idea of AI in swine is not a valid one. From a health standpoint alone, it is an excellent idea. Because one of the major areas for potential introduction of undesired disease into the herd is through the addition of replacement or different male lines, usually only a few animals are added. One or two, or six or ten can jeopardize the whole operation.

AI, along with reducing health problems, is one way to achieve the same advantages that the dairy and beef industries have enjoyed — the more rapid distribution of a superior genetic potential throughout the country by the use of AI than would be possible with natural service.

Concerning an individual who offers these A.I. services on a routine basis, there is no one that I know of that breeds sows for hog producers privately. You might also want to get in touch with one of the large AI services that deals in frozen semen.

Although I do not endorse one company over the other, an artificial insemination company that

advertises fairly often in trade journals is International Boar Semen. Their address and phone number is: P. O. Box 538, Eldora, Iowa, 50627, 800/247-7877.

I think the idea of not maintaining a boar for two animals is excellent. However, if these are gilts, you may have a hard time in getting good conception or even good signs that they're in heat to know when to breed them. Proper heat observation is essential for a successful artificial insemination program.



N.J. meat plant may lose inspection services

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture will withdraw federal meat inspection and meat grading and acceptance services indefinitely from a Linden, N.J. firm unless its secretary-treasurer, Gerald David, gives up all association within 90 days and sells his company stock within one year.

The firm, Mlotok Beef Company, Inc., cannot process meat products without federal inspection.

Donald L. Houston, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, said the decision was issued by USDA Administrative Law Judge Victor W. Palmer after USDA and the firm reached a consent agreement.

Houston said under the consent order, grading and inspection services will be withdrawn indefinitely if the firm violates the Federal Meat Inspection Act by preparing, selling, transporting or attempting to distribute adulterated or misbranded product within two years.

David was convicted on January 12 in U.S. District Court in New Jersey of one felony count for unlawfully giving money to a USDA inspector. David was fined \$2,000 and placed on probation for two years.

Under the Federal Meat Inspection Act, only wholesome, unadulterated meat products can be sold in interstate commerce.



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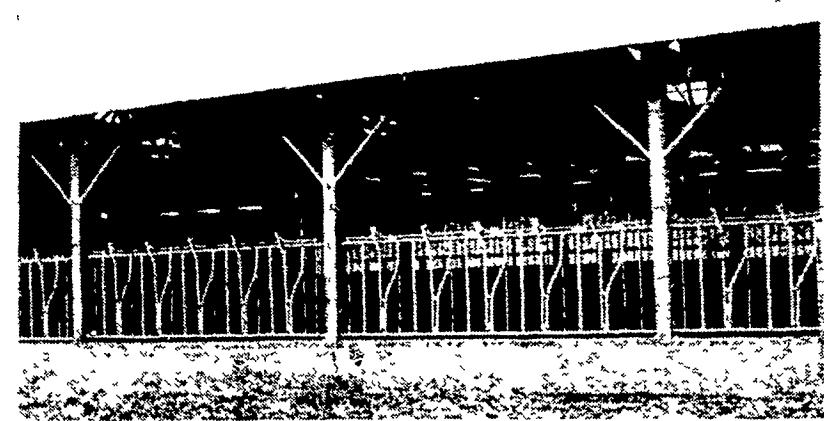
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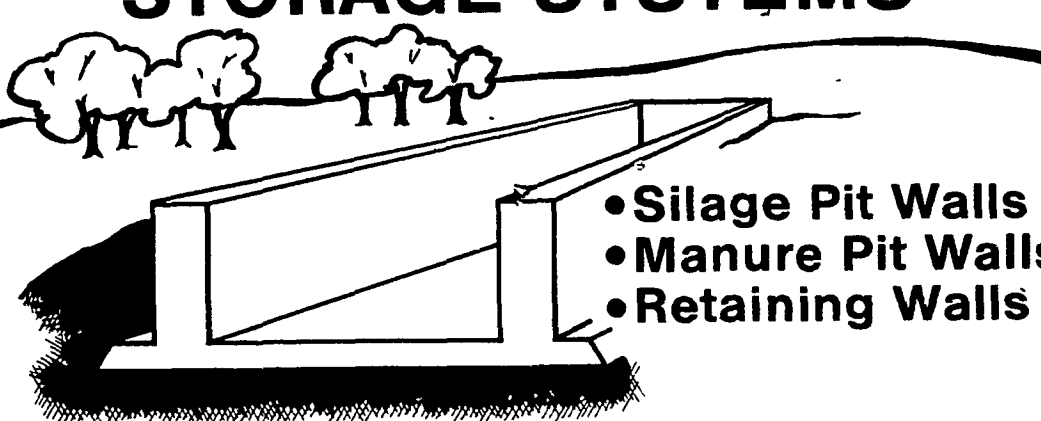
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