

Here's how to make pigs pay

NEWARK, Del. — When hog prices are high, it's no challenge to produce hogs since you don't have to be good to make money. Right now, however, most producers are challenged too much with the present economics of hog production and would welcome some relief.

"Knowing your costs can help determine where to improve," says University of Delaware Extension livestock specialist Richard Fowler.

Research from Michigan and Missouri shows that feed accounts for 54 percent of total production costs in feeder operations. Feed costs in 1979 were \$18 to produce a

40-pound feeder pig. Buildings and machinery plus repairs, depreciation and interest on them accounted for 20 percent of the total cost, or \$6.84. Labor was 13 percent, or \$4.37 per pig.

These are the main costs involved in production, so profit can be improved by reducing feed costs and using facilities to the fullest while keeping building-investment costs low, says Fowler.

Profits are affected most by hog prices, feed cost and the number of pigs weaned per litter. Associated with feed cost is feed conversion ratio. A good conversion or feed efficiency ratio reduces the pounds of feed required to grow a pound of pork.

"Reproductive efficiency is another key to making money with pigs," he says. "Increase the number sold per sow and you spread the cost of maintaining a sow here over more pigs."

Here are some ways to improve reproductive efficiency in your herd:

Select replacement gilts for their dam's reproductive performance. Check for soundness of underline, external genitalia and feet and legs.

Choose boars that have excellent maternal records such as number of pigs per litter and weaning weight. Use breeds that have good maternal traits.

Develop gilts to 250 pounds before breeding. Feed gilts and boars adequately during the breeding and gestation period.

Keep boars cool during the summer. Cull sows that are below the average of their farrowing group by two pigs. Cull those that don't return to estrus within 7-10 days after weaning.

Maintain a good herd health program with particular attention to regular deworming and external parasite control. Routinely perform a slaughter check on cull gilts or market hogs. Work with a veterinarian and look for rhinitis, respiratory diseases and internal parasite damage.

During the breeding-gestation phase of your operation, breed on the first estrus following weaning. Mate sows and gilts two or three times during the standing heat period. Use adequate boar power.

Herds with 90 percent plus conception rates use a boar for 4-6 services per week. If the last sows

to farrow in a breeding group have smaller litters than those farrowing first, boar power was not sufficient. Rotate boars in group breeding programs to allow for rest.

Study the nutritional requirements for bred sows and gilts. Are these requirements being met by your feeding program? A ration can be adequate, but the way it is fed may keep some sows or gilts from getting what they need. In confinement, small sow groups of six or fewer seem to work best, says Fowler.

Are there other stresses in your sow housing?

Consider immunizing sows for diseases found in the farrowing facility. Erysipelas is a disease that might be affecting pigs soon after birth. It doesn't always result in reddened skin lesions. Diarrhea, huddling, and joint stiffness are other symptoms. These can be avoided with a sow vaccination program.

At farrowing and during lactation make sure there is a warm (90-95 degrees Fahrenheit during the first few days), dry, draft-free environment for baby pigs. They need colostrum, too. And treat for anemia with an iron injection by day two.

Feed the sow a high-energy diet but bring her onto full feed gradually during the first week

after farrowing. Reduce the lactation period to four weeks. Respond to diseases promptly. Check with your veterinarian about establishing a herd health program. Avoid having him come just to "put out fires."

Pay yourself a dividend by checking your operation. Then adjust it as needed to improve the profits from hogs.

Penn State offers small woodlot course

UNIVERSITY PARK — What do you plan to do with your woodlot? Improve it? Enlarge it? Build a hunting lodge? Plant Christmas trees? Sell logs or lumber?

Extension specialist at Penn State say you may own woodland and idle farmland for profit or recreation but management of the area is needed for proper resource development.

To help owners manage woodlands, a correspondence

course on small woodlot forestry has been written. Lessons give directions on how to control tree species by planting seedlings, encourage growth of tall straight trunks by growing food and cover plants.

To get a copy of this course, send \$7.50, including postage, to Forestry, Box 5000, University Park, PA 16802. Make check payable to Penn State.

Pa. Juniors

(Continued from Page D7)

- Winter Calf**
1 Royal M Minor III Richmond VA
Senior Calf
1 Stephanie Earnhart, Leetonia OH 2 Royal M Minor III
- Late Summer Yearling**
1 Judy Hellich Belle Mead NJ 2 William D Ferrell, Mt Airy, MD 3 Lynn Stoner, Waynesboro 4 Duane R Giessner, Waynesboro 5 Cathy Wildeson, Waynesboro
- Early Summer Yearling**
1 Stephanie Earnhart, Leetonia OH, 2 William D Ferrell
- Late Junior Yearling**
1 Michael G H Cummings, Westminster MD 2 Laura Tessier, Laytonsville, MD, 3 John P Hausner, Dover, 4 Laura Tessier, Laytonsville MD 5 Robert Livingston Dover
- Early Junior Yearling**
1 Jacqueline A Kirschner, 2 N Carlyle Stull Sandy Spring MD
- Champion**
Michael G H Cummings
Reserve Champion
Stephanie Earnhart
- Best Bred and Owned**
1 Stephanie Earnhart, 2 Jacqueline A Kirschner 3 William D Ferrell, 5 David Shultz
- SHORTHORN FEMALES**
Junior Calves
1 Rhonda Kay Kibler Woodstock VA 2 3 Kenianne Rarick Reading
- Summer Yearling**
1 Rhonda Kay Kibler, 2 Kenianne Rarick
- Early Spring Yearling**
1 Brad Douthit Orange VA
- Junior Yearling**
1 Jay Douthit 2 Kenianne Rarick
- Champion**
Rhonda Kay Kibler
Reserve Champion
Brad Douthit
- Best Bred and Owned**
1 Rhonda Kibler 2 Kenianne Rarick
- SIMMENTAL FEMALES**
Senior Calf
1 Joseph M Messick Middletown 2 Mark Weider, Fairport, NY
- Late Junior Yearling**
1 Sarah Anne Messick Middletown 2 Joseph M Messick 3 Nancy J Townsend Brodbacks 4 Amy Rynd Karns City 5 Lisa Shaffer Hooverville
- Champion**
Sarah Anne Messick
Reserve Champion
Joseph M Messick
Best Bred and Owned
Joseph M Messick

**GEHART'S
SANDBLASTING
& RESTORATION
INC.**
Box 109AA, R.D. 1
Abbotstown, Pa.
17301
717-259-9868

- Water Blasting
- Chemical Cleaning
- Brick & Stone Re-pointing & Water-proofing


MEMO

**HAY,
STRAW &
EAR CORN
SALE**

**EVERY
MONDAY
AT 11 A.M.**

**NEW HOLLAND SALES
STABLES, INC.**
Phone 717-354-4341
Lloyd H. Kreider,
Auctioneer

M.H. EBY, INC.
Manufacturer of All Aluminum Truck Bodies
Livestock, Grain & Bulk Feed



Aluminum Livestock Body

Distributor of **TIMPT** Refrigerated Trailers

Sales & Service
Blue Ball, Pa. 717-354-4971

**PAUL B. Zimmerman
INC.**

AUTOMATIC CATCH GATE

FEATURES

- Easily Operated By One Person
- Easily Adjustable For All Sizes of Cattle
- Operates Left or Right
- Double Link on Doors For Extra Strength
- One Side Spring Loaded For Extra Safety

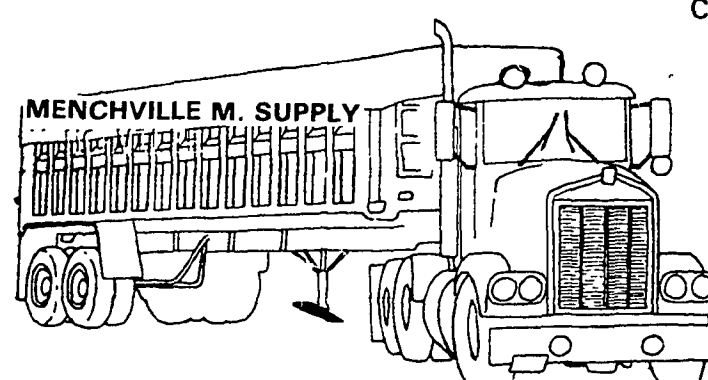
CATCH PEN AVAILABLE WITH 3 POINT LIFT

PAUL B. ZIMMERMAN, INC.
Hardware • Farm Supplies
Custom Manufacturing • Crane Service
Box 128 R.D. #4, Lititz, PA 17543
Wood Corner Rd.
1 Mile West of Ephrata
Phone: 717-738-1121

MENCHVILLE M. SUPPLY CORP.

Suppliers of Dried Brewers Grain with Dried Brewers Yeast and Dump Trailer Hauling Available

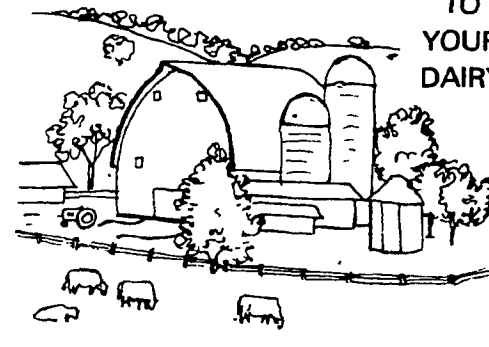
LOADED FROM THE BREWERY



ANALYSIS ON 100% DRY BASIS

Crude Protein	24%/29½%
Crude Fiber	15%/16½%
Crude Fat	5%
NFE	38%

TO YOUR DAIRY



494 Menchville Road
Newport News, VA. 23602
804-877-0207