

Keep carcass info on swine

NORRISTOWN — Swine producers routinely market hogs weighing around 230 pounds. These animals normally yield a carcass equivalent to 70 percent of their live body weight. The 30 percent weight loss, an average of 69 pounds, can be partially offset in large meat packing plants by the sale of by-products.

The average 161-pound resultant carcass can vary in retail value, depending on the amount of desirable muscling and the content of undesirable fat. The ham section

may include as little as 0.5 pounds of fat trim or as much as 5.0 pounds or more of waste fat trim. Loin sections may vary from a 0.5-inch fat, covering to as much as 1.8 inches of body fat.

An average hog yields approximately 22 percent of its carcass weight in the form of ham. Results of swine carcass shows reveal that this figure can easily vary over 25 percent. According to the National Livestock and Meat Board, the shoulder content of the average hog is about 18 percent of

the total carcass weight, while the loin section totals approximately 16 percent of the carcass weight.

Swine producers, particularly purebred producers, should collect carcass information on the animals they produce. Local packing plants or locker operations may allow you to record information on animals which are packaged for your own use. Recording of carcass measurements can be useful to hog producers in their selection-culling program.

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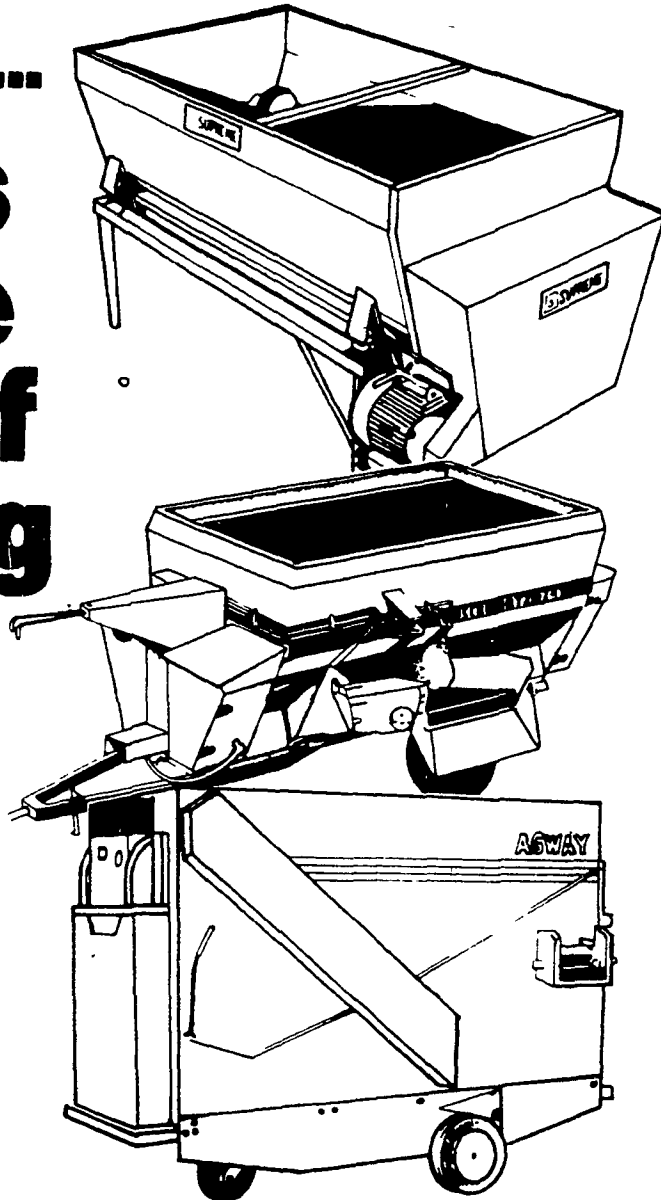
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