

Hog numbers show big declines

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs is estimated at 58.7 million head on Dec. 1, 1981, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This is 9 percent below a year ago and 13 percent less than Dec. 1, 1979.

—Breeding hog inventory at 7.84 million is 14 percent below last year and down 19 percent from two years ago.

—Market hog inventory at 50.8 million is 8 percent below a year earlier and 12 percent less than two years ago.

The 14 biggest hog states with 50.8 million head on Dec. 1, are down 7 percent from a year earlier and 11 percent less than Dec. 1, 1979. These 14 states account for approximately 87 percent of the total U.S. hog and pig inventory.

The U.S. crop for 1981 totaled 93.8 million head, 8 percent below 1980 and 9 percent below the 1979 pig crop.

The December, 1980 - May, 1981 pig crop, estimated at 47.6 million head, is down 9 percent from a year earlier period and 6 percent below the comparable period two years ago.

The June-November, 1981 pig crop, estimated at 46.2 million head, is 6 percent fewer than a year ago and 11 percent below the June-November 1979 crop.

A total of 6.26 million sows farrowed during June-November 1981 is 8 percent fewer than a year earlier. The litter size during this period averaged 7.38 compared with 7.21 a year earlier.

In the 14 major states the June-

August 1981 pig crop totaled 20.2 million head, 1 percent below the same quarter a year ago. For the September-November period, the pig crop of 19.8 million head decreased 7 percent from the same period during the 1980.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 5.76 million sows farrowed during the December 1981 - May 1982 period, 11 percent below a year ago and 20 percent fewer than two years ago.

Intentions in the 14 major states totaled 2.23 million sows to farrow during December 1981-February 1982 period, 6 percent fewer than the same period last year. The March-May 1982 intentions, at 2.73 million, are 11 percent below the March-May 1981 quarter.

Free forage and grain analysis for farmers at Farm Show

HARRISBURG — Farmers attending the Farm Show next week, Jan. 10-15 will be able to have forage and grain analyzed free of charge for nutrient content.

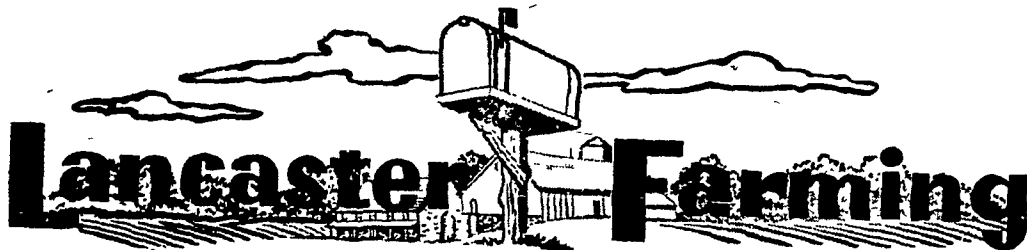
Demonstrated at the show will be Penn State's "infrared spectro computer," the instrument content such as protein and fiber, total digestible nutrients, and percentage of dry matter. Farmers should bring in two handfuls of whatever forage or grain they want analyzed.

The infrared instrument has been demonstrated at hay shows in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. It is

a mobile unit, mounted in a van. It was developed by John S. Shenk and associates at Penn State, and personnel at the Regional Pasture Research Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at University Park.

Shenk says the mobile unit will be located in the beef barn of the Farm Show.

He speculates the infrared scanner will eventually be available to livestock feeders through county agents' offices, feed stores, or at hay marketing centers.



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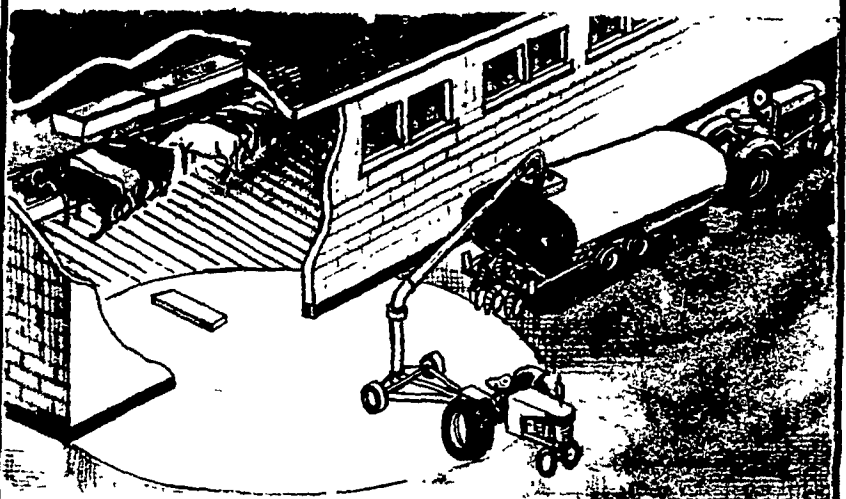


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