

Soil Conservation Service calls for volunteers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Thousands of volunteers are needed to help battle soil erosion and other natural resource problems, Peter C. Myers, chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, said last Tuesday.

"Soil erosion is one of the most serious problems facing America today," Myers said. "People who will volunteer their time and talents to help the Soil Conservation Service and local soil and water conservation districts can put more conservation on the land while keeping federal costs down."

In the new volunteer program, authorized by the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, people could perform a wide range of services on a part-time or full-time basis, such as aiding with:

- field surveys and layout of conservation practices;
- conservation education programs in schools, churches and clubs;
- training of high school, vocational and agricultural students for soil and land judging contests; and
- building or making use of outdoor learning areas with schools, Scouts and other groups.

"Volunteers won't be paid, but they will find it satisfying and interesting work," Myers said. "They would not be considered federal employees, but they will receive legal protection as well as insurance for any work-related injuries."

Lack of such protection discouraged volunteer service in the past. The Soil Conservation Service had only a small student volunteer program under the Civil Service Reform Act.

"Volunteers won't be used to displace current employees of USDA. We need all the trained conservationists we have," Myers said. "But volunteers can help us be more responsive to local needs without adding staff, and they can help free up more time for field employees to work directly with landowners on solving conservation problems."

Anyone interested in volunteering, said Myers, should contact the local office of the Soil Conservation Service or the local conservation district. Other information on how to become a conservation volunteer is available by writing: Soil Conservation Volunteer, C/O Deputy Chief for Administration, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, D.C. 20013

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THE PROBLEM

When the temperature goes up one of the first ways your body reacts is by breaking out in perspiration. That's nature's way of cooling off.

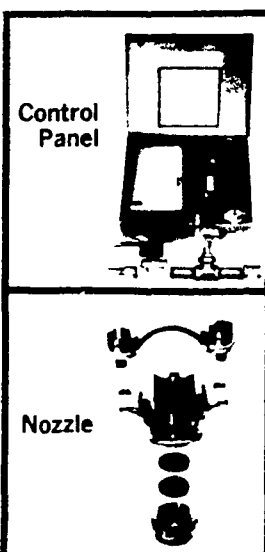
It's different with hogs. High temperatures cause them a great deal of stress because they can't sweat. When under this stress due to heat hogs will lose their appetite, weight gains drop, there is poor feed conversion, conception rate is reduced and pens become a mess. All of this adds up to lost profits.

THE SOLUTION

When the temperature is above 72° F even ventilation can't cure the stress that results. But a sprinkler cooling system can help your hogs where nature fell short, giving them a chance to cool off. It sprays them with coarse water droplets to reduce their body temperature. The idea is simple but extremely effective.

THE SYSTEM

The sprinkle cycle is turned on automatically whenever the barn temperature rises above a preset level 72° F. Throughout this on period the control functions to permit sprinkling to occur for a preset time period each hour (2 minutes/hour is recommended for best results). When the barn temperature drops below 72° F the cycle is automatically interrupted.

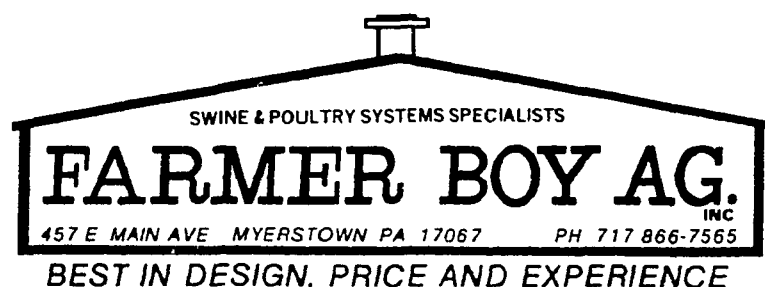


The nozzles are clamped to a plastic pipe strung over the gutter of slatted area at the rear of the pen. Each nozzle covers a 5.6 foot diameter area which usually means one nozzle per pen. The nozzle assures a coarse droplet spray pattern which is important for maximum cooling. A fine mist of fog is not desirable in geographical areas of generally high summer relative humidity.

THE PROOF

	Control Hogs not sprayed	Hogs Sprayed 1 min per hr above 85°F	Hogs Sprayed 1 min per hr above 70°F	Hogs Sprayed 1 min per hr above 70°F
Average daily gain per hog	1.37	1.62	.62	1.72
Average daily feed consumption per hog	5.84	6.77	6.72	6.07
Lbs. feed per lb. gain per day	4.38	4.18	4.16	3.89
Lbs. feed save hog	0	22	22	49
Days earlier to market	0	1	11	15

Research done at Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology in Ontario and at the University of California have shown these results. These figures are calculated on hogs from 100 lbs. up to 200 lbs.



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