

## Vet discusses hog diseases



Newly elected directors to the York Pork Producers are, standing from left, Steve Wilson and Dave Holloway. Seated left is Don Sunday, secretary-treasurer; and James Parlett, vice president. Absent from photo is Larry Seitz, president.

### Ash rust treatment given

NEWARK, Del. — Last year's outbreak of rust disease has many owners of ash trees wondering how they can protect these tall shade-givers from further injury this season.

Ash rust is a disease caused by a fungus—*Puccinia sparganioides*. When green and red ash trees are affected by this condition, their leaves become distorted and leaf stalks swell. The yellow spores of the fungus are produced in small cup-like structures over the swollen leaf areas.

University of Delaware extension plant pathologist Bob Mulrooney says the disease caused considerable leaf loss among many ashes last spring to find out how they can help their trees recover,

or protect them from further injury.

"I recommend you fertilize last year's victims now with a 10-6-4 grade fertilizer," the specialist says. "Apply a pound of fertilizer for each inch of trunk diameter. Punch holes in the ground 6 to 8 inches deep every 2 feet around the drip-line of the tree and distribute the fertilizer equally in them.

"Most years I don't feel it's economically feasible to spray for ash rust," he says. "But there may be situations where spraying might be considered." In these cases, he suggests spraying with maneb or zineb at budbreak, and twice more at 10- to 14-day intervals. This may give some control.

DALLASTOWN — York County Pork Producers met last Saturday at Blymire's Church for their annual dinner and meeting.

Program for the evening included a film presentation on the hog disease mycoplasma pneumonia and speaker Dr. Dean Snyder, a veterinarian who works closely with the pork industry.

Dr. Snyder cited two factors that most greatly affect feed utilization and efficiency in a production operation. Management is the first, and included the total environment in which the animal lives, as well as the capability of the working equipment within the

feeding setup.

Disease is the second greatest factor affecting hog production efficiency, and Dr. Snyder told pork producers that vet costs now run approximately one dollar per hog per year.

At least a dozen feed additives are on the market, approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration. According to the veterinarian, all are proven effective for disease control and will result, if used properly, in economic gains.

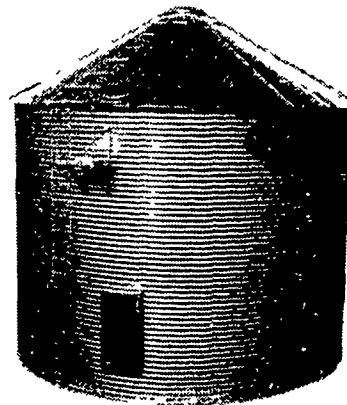
Their use, he noted, should be viewed not as a cost, but rather as an investment.

However, Dr. Snyder emphasized that all antibiotics are not the same, not even those drugs closely related in makeup. Each has a particular purpose, and any producer incorporating them into a feeding program must be knowledgeable of which antibiotic works for each problem.

He added that antibiotics only kill bacteria, and do not "cure" disease. Once the treatment has eliminated the bacteria, it is the animal's body that actually cures itself. To prevent disease problems, an antibiotic must be present in the tissue before any bacteria arrive there.

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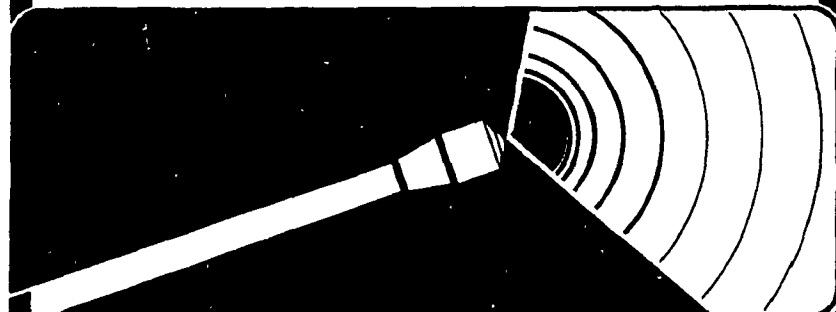
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