

# Swine genetics

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increasingly important role," comments Cardin. "Artificial insemination is a good example of a technique traditionally used only

in research labs and universities. Today, AI is becoming more commonplace because of the existence of seedstock companies," he adds. One reason is the

use of test data to select boars. Kleen Leen performance tests all the boars it sells, and this practice is now becoming an industry standard.

### Feed utilization

With all these advances, Cardin says the bottom line is improving

the genetic potential and economic efficiency of breeding stock. "The foundation of the hog industry rests on an animal that utilizes feed at an efficient rate — because feed costs account for well over 50 percent in the total expense of running an operation," he declares. "Improvements in the economic efficiency of the nation's breeding stock has important long-term consequences for the industry," he adds.

"I am certain the animals we produce will become even more efficient over time," Cardin says. "For example, Kleen Leen uses a measurement index called GPR

(genetic potential rating) to select for economically important traits. Our company has continued to measure these same traits year after year, and has collected data that shows that a top boar of five years ago would be considered below average today. This trend is continuing and I don't see the industry plateauing," Cardin concludes. "Boars and gilts will continue to be better molds than their ancestors, and I don't expect this company, or the industry, to face a mid-life crisis at the end of the next 21 years. This business is testimony to the benefits of constant change and improvement."

## Woodlot demo planned Tuesday

LAUREL, Del. — The public is invited to a demonstration of woodlot management and chain saw safety techniques on Tuesday, Nov. 29, at 1 p.m. on the Brad McWilliams farm southwest of Laurel. The event is being sponsored by the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Service and the forestry section of the Delaware Department of Agriculture.

A woodlot near the farm has been selected to demonstrate control of broadleaf underbrush,

selective tree removal, and other management techniques that can add to the value of a lot.

Dan Tilton, safety director of the Tilton Equipment Company in Rye, N.H. will discuss proper tree felling techniques and chain saw safety.

To get to the McWilliams farm, take Route 24 approximately one mile west of Laurel (past the Laurel airport). Turn left on County Road 510. Proceed about two miles to the farm. Directional signs will be posted.

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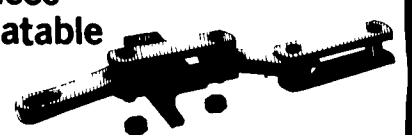
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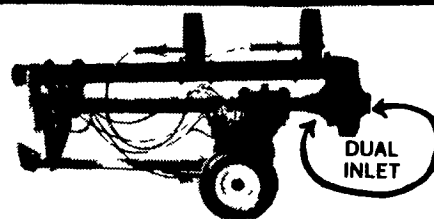
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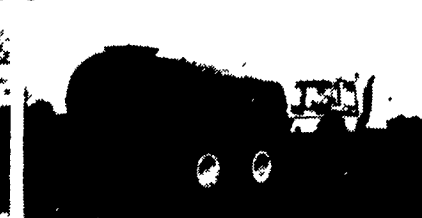
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