

Farm and Home Center hosts pork seminar

BY JACK HUBLEY

LANCASTER — Approximately 75 farmers took part in the Professional Pork Producer's seminar at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center on Thursday.

The theme for the five-hour seminar was improving finishing efficiency, with six speakers on hand to discuss topics ranging from nutrition to computerized swine farming.

The morning's first speaker was Michigan State University's extension swine specialist, Dr. Maynard Hogberg, who discussed methods of identifying finishing inefficiencies.

Hogberg urged farmers to carefully monitor their herd's performance, stating that there was room for improvement if the farmer's hogs were not reaching a marketable weight of 230 pounds within 174 days.

The speaker warned against overcrowding, stating that housing more than 30 animals per pen can lead to behavioral problems and slow finishing. Hogberg's recommended density figures are 5.5 square feet per animal in the 50 to 120 pound class, and 7.5 feet per animal when weights reach 120 to 220 pounds.

On the subject of environmental control, Dr. Hogberg noted that most farmers don't spend enough time in the herd's environment to really know what problems might exist. He urged farmers to check ventilation controls monthly, and recommended sufficient insulation



Dr. Maynard Hogberg

to hold daily temperature fluctuations to no more than 10 degrees F.

The speaker urged farmers to monitor samples of their herds each season in order to control mange, internal parasites, pneumonia, and to spot nutritional problems.

Following Dr. Hogberg was Penn State extension marketing specialist, Louis Moore, speaking on methods of minimizing risk in the hog business.

Moore spoke at length on commodity futures, showing how the market can benefit farmers by removing the risk of a price decline from their shoulders.

The speaker noted numerous factors responsible for the rising popularity of hedging, including high interest rates, low agricultural prices, past inflation problems and declining land prices.

The morning's final speaker was Penn State extension meat specialist, William H. Henning, with his presentation of a pork

value program.

Following lunch, Dr. Hogberg took the podium again to discuss nutrition, and Dr. Matthew J. Parsons, extension swine specialist, lectured on receiving programs for feeder pigs.

Dr. Parson's list of four critical factors for incoming pigs includes a healthy environment, the use of water medication, the use of feed

medication, and in some cases, the application of oats.

Bill Geise from RBA Data Systems in State College, and Jim Landis from The Office Works in Lancaster, concluded the seminar with a look at computers and the new software packages available. Software demonstrations were available to interested farmers following the seminar.

Maryland DHI to meet March 27

NORTH EAST, MD. — The 1984 annual membership meeting of the Maryland Dairy Herd Improvement Corporation will be held at 10:30 a.m. March 27, at Morning Cheer in Sandy Cove on Route 272 south of North East, Md.

The business meeting will begin the day's activities, and members votes are needed, according to secretary Eugene Long.

The board of directors considered several options on developing a lab to do its DHI work and voted to establish its lab in conjunction with West Virginia.

The lab will be built in Hagerstown on land leased from that city for 50 years at \$1 per day. It is hoped, Long said, that the lab will be in operation by July 1.

Input is needed, Long said, concerning how to finance the lab. According to figures that were put together, the DHI will need about \$180,000 to build and equip the facility. Two options have been developed to finance this project.

The first option is to increase the cost of butterfat-protein from 15 cents per sample to 17 cents. This

would involve obtaining a loan from the bank or some other source for 15 years for the lab building and five years for needed equipment and furniture.

The second option is to self-finance by charging all dairymen 23 cents per cow month for one year for the total of 2.76 percent per cow. This option would allow for the reduction of cost per sample to 13 cents because in one year, the building and equipment would be paid for.

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COUNTER ¹	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	S	✓
Lorsban ¹	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dyfonate ²	✓	✓	✓	S	✓	✓	✓	✓	S	✓
Furadan ³	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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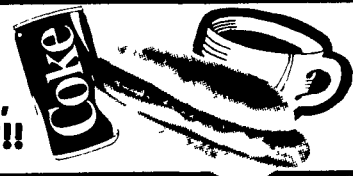


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