

Workers 'breathe easy' at Schick Farms

Moving air at the rate of up to 120 cubic feet per minute through each of 10 lines can cause pressure imbalances, but the utility room has no trouble maintaining an equilibrium. Located on the door are adjustable louvres for controlling air flow during the summer, and a baffled ceiling intake remains ready to add air from the attic area during the winter. A wall-mounted manometer in the utility room provides feedback on just how much venting is required

to maintain zero pressure. With the large numbers of heat producing bodies housed in today's confinement systems, adequate summer cooling becomes a critical consideration. Large four-speed, automatic fans located in the end walls of farrowing and nursery rooms keep these areas comfortable.

Supplementing the fans is a snout cooling system. Paul points to the four-inch diameter PVC pipes rising from the floor at the head end of each farrowing crate and explains.

"It's been shown that a sow accomplishes most of her cooling through her snout, so during the summer the caps are removed from each of these pipes and an elbow is installed to vent air directly toward the sow's snout.

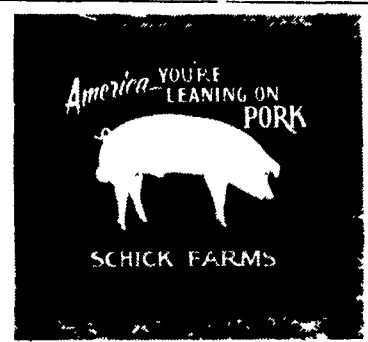
"Each of these pipes is joined to the underground geothermal tubes," he continues. "The suction created by those 24-inch, four-speed fans mounted in the wall is enough to pull air up through the snout pipes, so the 10-inch fans

running the system from the utility room can be shut down in the summer."

Inside the buildings, all animals rest comfortably on clear-span, coated wire floors. The floors located in each of the five-by-seven foot farrowing crates are made in three sections to accommodate varying rates of wear. Since the center section located beneath the sow wears faster than the two side sections, the sow's floor can be rotated 180 degrees, or turned over, providing four different wear

patterns. Beneath the floors in both farrowing and nursery areas, eight-inch pit fans operate year round to carry pit gases away from the animals.

Although the farm's original farrowing and nursery facilities aren't equipped with the sophisticated geothermal system, Herb is concerned with energy efficiency in those areas, as well. With hot water as his heat source in the older buildings, Schick has installed a side-arm boiler capable



of burning wood or coal. When winter temperatures dip below the wood burner's ability to heat the buildings, the oil burner is on stand-by to pick up the slack. (Turn to Page A34)

Quarters



Water heater in center of farrowing crates supplements geothermal system. Four-speed fan in end wall...

Thermostat



5. Room temperature is controlled thermostatically, keeping rooms cool throughout summer, by drawing air...

Snout cooling



6. Cooling is provided through snout pipes located at head end of each farrowing crate. Pipes are linked underground to geothermal tubes.

On coated wire



7. Animals in farrowing and nursery areas are housed comfortably on clear-span coated wire floors. Eight-inch pit fans remove pit gases.

GRAIN STORAGE MATERIAL *



GRAIN DRYER

BINS

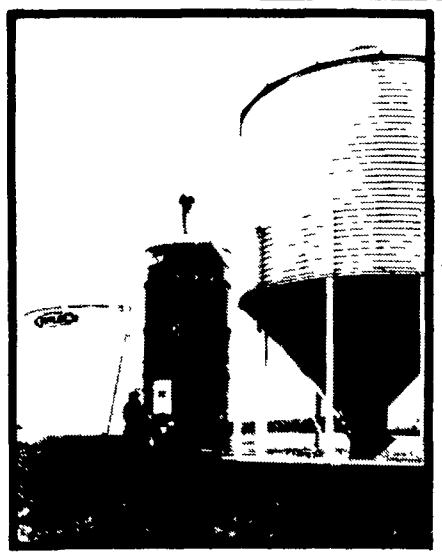


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