Contract Hog Farmer

(Continued from Page E2)

baker acknowledges that the lagoon could have been a bit larger so that he wouldn't have to spread manure as frequently. Currently the lagoon holds four and a half months worth of manure, which Brubaker spreads on 50 acres of mostly corn fields. He spreads an average of four times each year.

The breeding/gestation rocm contains 171 stalls and 16 boar or gilt pens in back of the breeding stalls. This area has concrete flooring in the front two-thirds of the stall with slats in the back. The flooring in the front slopes downward toward the slats.

The farrowing stalls have concrete slats where the sow lays, with her hind quarters resting on woven wire. Brubaker prefers the wire so that when she urinates it doesn't splash onto the piglets. To either side of the sow is plastic-coated expanded metal for the piglets. Immediately after birth, the piglets lay on a black rubber mat for their first two weeks. The mat eliminates drafts from underneath and absorbs heat from the heat lamp.

The nursery floors are equipped with woven wire.

Ventilation is controlled in Brubaker's barn with a neutral system. Air is blown in to the room from one end of the building and runs across the length along the ceiling. It then hits the wall, falls toward the floor and is pulled across the floor and out of the room by a twospeed fan. "With this system there are no drafts," reported Brubaker. "I know because we did a smoke test right after it was installed.' The smoke test also showed him that there is a draft-free space where the piglets lay.

"We don't have to run the farrowing room as hot as some do because of the ventilation," Brubaker said. "and we only use the heat lamps for four to five days. I feel ventilation definitely is a help to production. Not everyone is going to agree though with this system. But if the building is designed and insulated properly, it

will work."

Having an insulated barn and good ventilation prevents the barn from having cold walls in the winter, which will caused condensation. It also keeps the air fresh and free of noxious gases.

Originally Brubaker had a negative ventilation unit in the breeding/gestation room. The floor tended to be damp and slippery, the room was hot in summer, and it was drafty. After he had a neutral ventilation unit installed, Brubaker had a 5 percent rise in his farrowing rate.

Another later addition was a sprinkler system to wet sows down during extremely hot days in

summer.

Brubaker practices very strict biosecurity, which also contributes to his successful production. "No one's allowed into the barn without my permission," Brubaker said. Entrants to the barn take a shower, change clothing, and change boots. Brubaker also has a washer and dryer in the barn's utility room to clean the clothing kept

"It's not in me to completely control disease, but we do all we can," claimed Brubaker, "Then we rely on higher powers, and that's where we want to put the credit."

The final reason to which Brubaker attributed his success is hard work. "Even if you have the right feed company, the right breeding stock, the right facility, and the blessing of the Lord, you still have to apply yourself."



The breeding/gestation room is located near the boar's pens. Feed is loaded into a feeder bin at the top of the stall.

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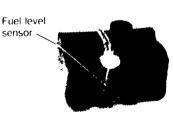




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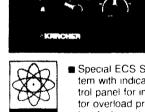
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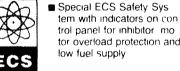
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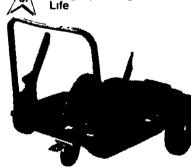
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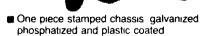




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