

All-In, All-Out Pig Rearing Saves Money

SAN ANTONIO, TX — A new technique for managing hog herds to reduce life-threatening disease and increase growth performance with less dependence on antibiotics could save hog producers \$1 billion a year, according to L. Kirk Clark, D.V.M., of West Lafayette, IN.

Dr. Clark, President-elect of the American Association of Swine Practitioners (AASP), described the results of field trials in Indiana of the all-in/all-out method of rearing pigs in information prepared for a meeting of the Livestock Publications Council in San Antonio. Representatives of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the AASP, and two other national veterinary organizations met with more than 100 livestock magazine editors, publishers, and advertising executives.

In the customary method of rearing pigs, 8 to 10 week-old pigs are mixed with pigs of all ages in finishing units shortly after nursing. In the all-in/all-out method, pigs born within two or three weeks of each other are housed separately from older animals until they reach slaughter weight.

Dr. Clark said the all-in/all-out method has been undergoing field trials after research showed that disease agents such as *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* that cause pneumonia in young pigs are transmitted from sows to pigs, but the pigs do not necessarily develop lung lesions.

In all trials of the all-in/all-out method, pigs took less time to reach market weight, and less pneumonia, and less mortality, Dr. Clark said. "We've observed almost zero death loss," he added.

"Perhaps it will not be necessary to make as much use of antibiotics to rear pigs with very little pneumonia," Dr. Clark said. He also believes the new method will significantly reduce the time it takes for pigs to reach market weight. Pigs from a 600-sow herd in Indiana required 152 days to reach market weight, compared to the 205 days it takes most hog producers to raise finished pigs.

Dr. Clark estimated the savings to the hog industry by reducing the effects of pneumonia at \$300 million a year and said total savings of the new rearing method could reach \$1 billion.

Dr. Clark's research was featured in information prepared for the Council by AASP, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP), and the American Association of Sheep and Goat Practitioners (AASGP).

Ford Motor Credit Offers Assistance

DEARBORN, MI. — Ford Motor Credit Company is offering to assist 40,000 of its tractor and equipment customers who may experience problems in making their seasonal farm equipment payments because of the drought. The move is an unprecedented action by the company.

Eligible parties are Ford New Holland customers who financed their purchases through Ford Credit and who reside in areas declared Drought Disaster Areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These areas include 39 states.

Over the next six months, Ford Credit will notify owners of farm equipment financed through Ford Credit by mail as their payments come due. The letters will ask customers who have -- or anticipate having -- problems in making their payments to contact their Tractor and Equipment Financing Specialty Branch. The form of assistance customers will be offered depends on individual circumstances.

"We realize that weather problems may affect farmers' income and make it difficult for them to

make scheduled payments on their equipment," said Ford Credit Chairman William E. Odom. "We want to assure these customers that we understand their concerns about meeting their financial obligations, and we are anxious to work with them to help protect the investments they have already made in their equipment."

"Some people may be reluctant to discuss difficulties with their lenders but, by reaching out to them, we hope we will be able to help them through this difficult period," Odom added.

Ford Credit is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ford Motor Company. Based on finance receivables outstanding, Ford Credit believes it is the second-largest finance company in the world. Ford Credit provides vehicle and equipment financing for more than 47 million retail customers and 8,000 Ford, Lincoln-Mercury, Ford Truck and Ford New Holland dealers in the United States, Canada and Australia. Ford Credit also offers various insurance products and other financial services.

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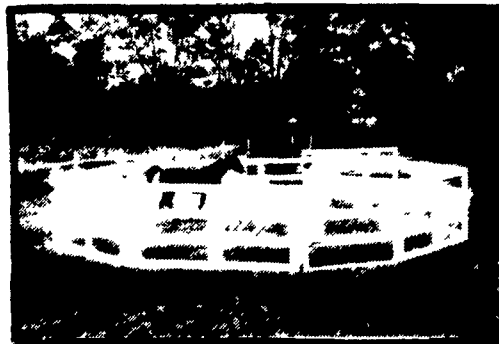
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