

# Pork Prose

(Continued from Page D2)

sooner. In their seven trials, 20 percent of the sows were in heat before weaning compared to none in the control group. The average interval from weaning to breeding was reduced by about 2.5 days. The effect on the pigs was not dramatic but in the limited nursed group, weight gain was somewhat lower and creep feed intake was higher.

Most other studies show similar results, with some researchers even making successful matings while sows are still nursing. But the practicality of this routine is really open to question. First, it will require a lot of labor to lock the pigs up several times a day every day for the last week of lactation. Second, getting the sow bred a few days sooner will save only a dollar or two in total feed costs per litter—\$.20 per pig at the most. And finally, having a sow in heat in the farrowing house is more of a problem than a benefit—since you'll have to handle her differently than the others who would be weaned and bred a few days later in the breeding barn.

### Split weaning

One of the suggested benefits of this technique is to provide a boost to small pigs near the end of lactation. By weaning the larger pigs first, their smaller litter mates get the benefits of an extra week of sow's milk minus the competition from the larger pigs. And like limited nursing, the researchers argue that the sows can be bred back sooner.

Among the first institutions to explore this technique was North Carolina State University in 1981. Five days before weaning, litter size was adjusted in the experimental sows. They were left with small (3 pigs), average (8 pigs), or large (13 pigs) litters. Sows nursing small litters came into heat about three days sooner than the other two groups. Pig performance before and after weaning was nearly identical for all three groups.

A study three years later at Kansas State University reported similar results.

But the findings of a trial completed last year at the University of Saskatchewan did not completely agree with the previous reports. In the Canadian trial, large pigs were weaned at 21 days, the smaller pigs at 28 days. The only effect on the sow was her weight change during the last week of lactation. The split-nursed sows actually gained weight, 1.5 pounds, between week three and four, com-

pared to a 14-pound weight loss in the control group.

Pigs in the Canadian study from the split-nursed groups did not seem to fair any better than their contemporaries on the control sows. For example, the large pigs taken from the sow at day 21 did not grow any faster than similar pigs left on the sow. And the small pigs, which should have shown the best response, also could not outperform the small pigs in the control group. So the split-weaning technique is not much to get excited about.

### SUMMARY

1. Split nursing—giving small pigs the first shot at the udder right after farrowing may boost survival rates in the litter. The trade-off is that someone must be there at parturition. With the approval of Lutalyse, that's no longer impractical. So for some producers this may be worth the effort.

2. Limited nursing—allowing pigs access to the udder only three to four times a day during the last week of lactation. Pulling this one off is no small task. The juice is

hardly worth the squeezing, since the only thing you get for your efforts is a sow in heat a day or two sooner than normal.

3. Split weaning—weaning the largest pigs about a week before

the remaining litter mates. Based on present experiments, this is another routine that's not worth the trouble. The sows may cycle a few days sooner, but the pigs fair no better—whether weaned early or left on the sow.

## 1.56 Million Pounds Pennsylvania Trout Sold

The state's 39 commercial trout growers sold 1.56 million pounds of trout valued at \$4.33 million during the 12-month period ending August 31, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.

Sales by the state's growers of food-sized trout, usually 12 inches or longer, totaled 1.04 million pounds of 67 percent of total production sold during the period, PASS reported. At an average of \$2.64 per pound, the food-sized trout were valued at \$2.74 million.

Sixty-three percent of the food-sized production was sold to fee and recreational fishing establishments, while processors and

restaurants accounted for 19 percent and 11 percent of production, respectively.

Pennsylvania growers' sales of stocker trout, usually six to 12 inches long, totaled 1.13 million fish, or 514,000 pounds live-weight, during the period. At an average of \$2.94 per pound, stocker sales were valued at \$1.51 million, with 80 percent of the volume sold to fee and recreational establishments.

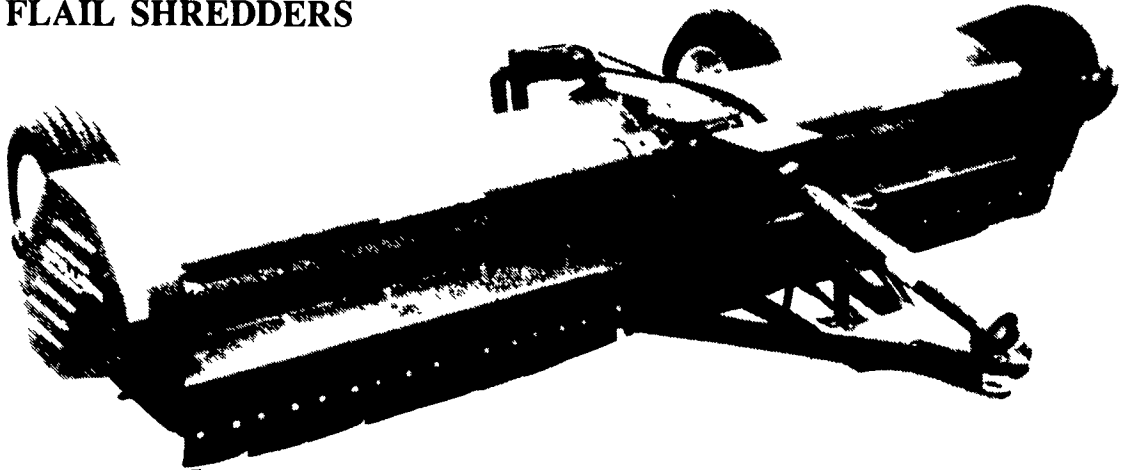
The report noted that although 39 commercial growers are located throughout the Commonwealth, most are situated in eastern and southeastern counties.



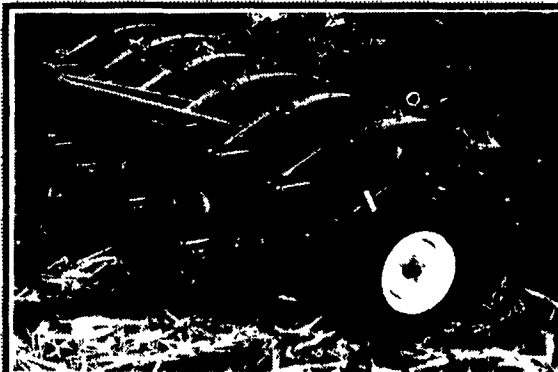
Brillion

## DEEP TILLS, SUB-SOILERS & FLAIL SHREDDERS

### FLAIL SHREDDERS

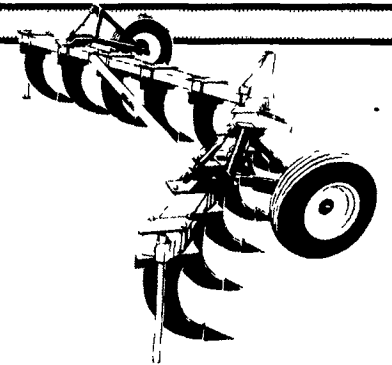


Heaviest gearbox on the market eliminates the number one cause of downtime. The gear box is designed to match the horsepower of large tractors... to keep going when others heat up and quit.



### DEEP-TILLS

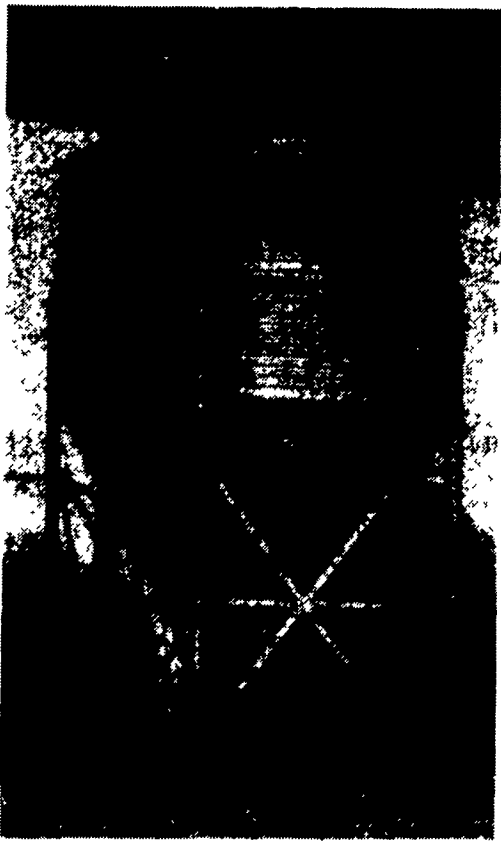
Breaks up that moisture barrier. Lets you use nature's water reservoir by breaking the hardpan.



### A POPULAR AND VERSATILE SOIL

Management tool. The husky curved shanks of the sub-soiler dig down deep as 16", shattering compacted layers of plow sole and lifting the hardpan while it is being broken.

FLEX BOOT  
AGITATORS  
PNEUMATIC FILL KITS  
LADDERS  
AUGERS  
SLIDE VALVES  
**GSI**  
FEED BINS



We Carry The Largest Stock Of GSI Feed Bins In The Area



automatic farm systems

608 Evergreen Rd. Lebanon, PA 17042 (717) 274-5333

#### PENNSYLVANIA

- ADAMSTOWN EQUIP., INC. Box 456, Adamstown
- MILLER EQUIP. CO. Rt. 1, Bechtelville
- NAN J. ZOOK FARM EQUIPMENT Box 5, Star Route, Belleville
- C.H. RINEHIMER & SONS RD 1, Berwick
- GUTSHALLS, INC. Rt. 34, 1201 Spring Rd. Carlisle
- WENNER FORD TRACTOR Route 202, Concordville
- GEORGE N. GROSS, INC. 5281 Davidsburg Road, Dover
- GEORGE V. SEIPLE VanBuren Road, Easton
- MESSICK FARM EQUIPMENT CO. Rt. 283, Rheams Exit, Elizabethtown

- MEYER'S IMPLEMENTS, INC. 400 N. Atrim Way, Greencastle
- J & M MACHINERY CO. RR 3, Box 147, Greensburg
- SWEGARD BROS. RD #3, Box 13, Halifax
- SHARTLESVILLE FARM SERVICE RD #1, Box 1382, Hamburg
- FINCH SERVICES-HANOVER, INC. 615 Frederick Street, Hanover
- NORMAN D. CLARK & SON Honey Grove
- C.B. HOOPER & SON Intercourse
- LANDS BROTHERS, INC. 1306 Manheim Pike, Lancaster
- UMBERGER'S OF FONTANA RD #4, Box 132, Lebanon
- GUTSHALL'S, INC. RD 2, Rt. 650 West, Loyalville

- N.H. FLICKER & SONS, INC. Maxatawny
- CLUGSTON FARM EQUIPMENT HCR 80 - Box 22, Needmore
- A.B.C. GROFF, INC. 110 S. Railroad Avenue, New Holland
- PEOPLE'S SALES & SERVICE Oakland Mills
- PIKEVILLE EQUIPMENT, INC. Oley
- ANGELO'S FARM EQUIPMENT RD #1 - Box 305, Perryopolis
- GRUMELLI FARM SERVICE Robert Fulton Highway, Quarryville
- WALTEMYER'S S & S INC. RD #3, Box 43-B, Red Lion
- SUMMIT MACHINERY, INC. PO Box 325, Somerset
- CHARLES SNYDER, INC. RD #3, Tamaqua

- M.S. YEARSLEY & SONS West Chester
- DEERFIELD AG & TURF CENTER, INC. RD 2 Box 212, Watsontown, PA 17777
- MARYLAND
- AG INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT 1207 Telegraph Road, Rising Sun
- CECIL E. JACKSON EQUIPMENT, INC. RRD2 Box 48X, Oakland
- WALTER G. COALE, INC. 2849-53 Churchville Rd., Churchville
- FINCH SERVICES, INC. PO Box 555, Westminster

#### NEW JERSEY

- LESLIE FOGG RD #3, Box 179, Bridgeton
- REED BROTHERS EQUIPMENT Petticoat Bridge Rd., Columbus
- FOSTER EQUIPMENT SALES Elmer
- CALDWELL TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT 480 US Route 46W, Fairfield
- PONHATOWERS BROS. EQUIPMENT CO. Route 31 & Church St., Flemington
- SHORE TRACTOR CO. RD #1 - Rt. 9, Freehold
- FRANK NYMAN & SONS Washington



Brillion

ON THE MOVE.. IN THE 90's