

Ag Progress Days

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One important feature of the polytube inlet system is that the operator can monitor the performance of the system by sight. When air enters the tube at a speed of 300 fpm, the polytube inflates approximately 40 to 50 percent. Short circuiting of air from undesirable air inlets such as open windows, or unsealed cracks in summer fan shutters may not allow the polytube to inflate properly. By simply looking at the polytubes the operator can determine how well the ventilation system is working and make adjustments if necessary. This is important when

variable-speed fans are used since the air delivery rate is difficult to determine at lower speeds.

Polytube systems are not just for new buildings. In most cases, polytube air inlets may be added to existing farrowing or nursery rooms to improve cold weather air distribution. In installations requiring a polytube longer than 60 feet, a small fan may be needed to assist air movement.

Polytube air inlet systems are relatively inexpensive. Polytubes with custom punched holes range from \$0.25 to \$0.50 per lineal foot, depending on the diameter. Some additional hardware is necessary for the transition from

the pre-heat area and to support the tube.

One disadvantage of the polytube inlet is that the tubes will collect dust and must be cleaned or replaced periodically. Condensation forming on the polytubes is not a problem unless the temperature of the incoming air drops below 35° F.

Remember that properly designed fresh air inlets are only part of a good ventilation system. Good quality fans and controls are also essential components. Select fans that are corrosion resistant, use high efficiency motors, and have a rated performance. Controls should provide reliable service, and housed in NEMA-4 enclosures to protect them from the environment that they "live"

in. Install a good min/max thermometer near the controls to monitor the temperature fluctua-

larger pigs.

tions each day. Daily fluctuations should be less than 5° F for small-pigs (< 40 lbs.) and 12° F for

Ram Evaluation Clinic Scheduled

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — "Studies reveal that one out of four rams is unsatisfactory," said Clyde Myers, county extension agent.

For this reason, a ram reproductive evaluation clinic will be held at the Willow Creek Animal Hospital on August 18, 9-4.

Semen will be collected and checked for quality; the scrotum will be measured; and the ram will be checked for physical soundness. The tests will be performed by Dr. Julie Staver of the Willow Creek Hospital; Dr. Tom Drake,

PSU extension veterinarian; and Dr. Clair Engle, PSU extension sheep specialist.

Cost is \$20 for each ram tested.

The clinic is the first of its kind in the East," Myers said. Sponsored by the extension office, the clinic is open to all counties, but reservations must be made. Call Myers at (215) 378-1327 or send \$20 to Berks Co. Extension Special Account, Berks Agricultural Center, P.O. Box 520, Leesport, PA 19533.

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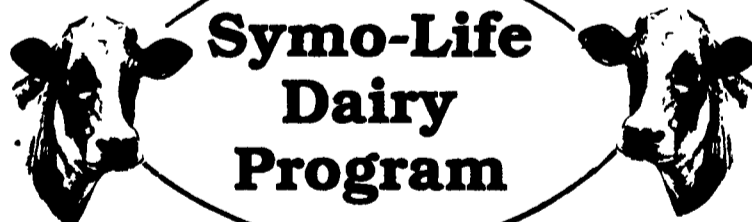
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