

## Pork Prose

(Continued from Page A22)

by 30 percent in finishing pigs. Average daily gain is improved by 20 percent. Stop and think about that — nearly 200 pounds of feed saved, and pigs go to market almost three weeks sooner. This is remarkable since daily injections of growth hormone (at twice the dosage that the FDA is supposedly considering for approval) will improve feed conversion by only 20 percent.

• Sows cycle at two days post-weaning, rather than the usual three to four days. That, I was told, would help more eggs attach to the

lining of the uterus since the sows are breeding back sooner (clearly a new concept for the text book).

• Decreases the amount of nutrients in the manure since the feed is utilized more efficiently.

• Decreases the amount of cholesterol in pork. Four ounces of "normal" pork would have the same total cholesterol as 1 to 1.5 pounds of pork from Aerogen-treated pigs. If my calculations are right, that means a 4-ounce portion of pork would contain about 17 milligrams of cholesterol, instead of the normal 100. I would think, from what little I know of biochemistry, that such a low cholesterol content in the muscles would

threaten the pig's very survival.

• Boars can be used more often.  
• Udders, ears, and snouts take on a pink color, because of the higher hemoglobin concentration.

### The Procedure

As I understand it, all sows must be first injected with 10 cc of LA-200 (long acting tetracycline). Sows are also put on chlortetracycline in the feed at the rate of 400 grams/ton, and vaccinated with erysipelas. Flow rate in the waterers must be increased to 3 quarts/min for sows and 2 qt/min for all other pigs. (This is done, according to the company rep, to "cool the pigs down" since their oxygen consumption is higher than normal.)

All sows receive 5 cc of iron. The process is repeated in six weeks. Apparently the tetracycline and iron is to overcome problems from eperythrozoonosis, which, in the opinion of the company, affects most sow herds.

### Their Results

I have none. Neither does the company, since there is no published research on the material. ("No need for research," according to the distributor, "we already know it works.") I did, however, call four swine producers (7/31/91) in Pennsylvania which have used Aerogen:

• Producer 1 used Aerogen for 6 months, but recently put the program "on-hold." He did see a color change during the first two months, and felt the sows farrowed 1/2 to 1 hour faster. Number born

live was not calculated before or after the program was started. He thought the pigs on the finishing floor grew faster during the first two months.

The lack of response was, according to the company, due to high levels of calcium in the water. They recommended a water softener but, to date, the producer has not complied.

• Producer 2 used Aerogen for 2 months. Conception rate improved somewhat at first. But sows also exhibited a rapid drop in feed intake in the farrowing house, resulting in poor milking ability, high weight loss, and low weaning weights. After removing the Aerogen, the sows' feed intake "turned around in a week," according to the producer.

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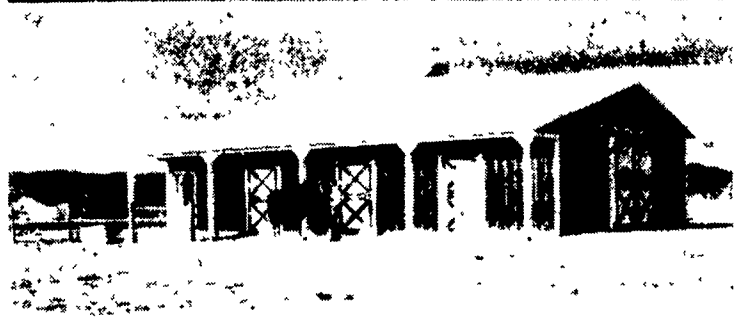
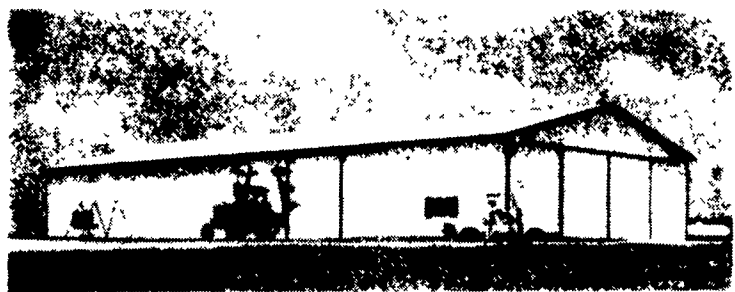
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