

# Mange Mites Bite Pigs

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Pennsylvania swine producers should carefully watch their animals for signs of mange during cold winter months, said a specialist in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"Mange usually becomes more prevalent this time of year, perhaps because pigs huddle together to keep warm, enhancing transmission of the mange mite," said Dr. Kenneth Kephart, associate professor of animal science.

Swine mange mites infest only pigs, burrowing and reproducing under their skin, causing itching and restlessness. "There aren't many things that make pigs as miserable as mange, and believe me, it costs money," Kephart said.

Studies show that pigs from mange-infested herds weigh about a pound less at weaning and take five to seven days longer to reach market weight. Feed efficiency of a whole herd can drop as much as 10 percent.

"Under field conditions, this can add up to an annual cost of nearly \$80 per sow," Kephart said.

How can you tell if your herd is infested?

"If you see pigs rubbing against a fence or wall, they probably have mange," Kephart said. "If you look more closely, infested pigs will have small, pimple-like regions on

the underside of the legs and belly. These areas look a lot like poison ivy.

"In more advanced stages, the inside of the pigs' ears become brown and crusty, and the pigs' flanks may be bald from rubbing," Kephart said. "The pigs' skin takes on a rough, leathery appearance."

Until recently, mange has been tough to control and nearly impossible to eliminate. But new products have improved mange control dramatically.

"Many safe and effective mange control sprays are available on the

market, including Permethrin, Ectiban, Prolate, and Taktic," Kephart said. "However, some spray products have age restrictions and all require two applications 7 to 10 days apart — the first to kill live mites, the second to kill newly hatched baby mites. Withdrawal times for these sprays range from a day to a week."

Spray treatments may be more difficult during winter than summer, however.

"When you spray pigs during the winter, the weather might be too cold to risk getting them wet,"

Kephart said.

An alternative mange-control product is Ivermectin, an injection treatment that generally eliminates the mange mite as well as lice with one application and offers temporary control of most internal parasites.

"Ivermectin is clearly the most effective mange-control product on the market, but it requires injection, has a withdrawal period of 18 days, and is more expensive than sprays," Kephart said. "Many producers use it to treat sows prior to farrowing, and it's a good treat-

ment at that time. But if a mange outbreak is getting ahead of you, the labor and expense involved in treating a large group of pigs with Ivermectin can become a problem.

"Producers whose herds have serious mange outbreaks need to weigh the cost of the disease against the cost of the treatment, and make the best decision for their operation," Kephart said.

Where trade names appear, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by Penn State Cooperative Extension is implied.

## Ethanol South Of The Border?

WASHINGTON, D.C. — From the air, Mexico City looks like it is perpetually fogged in. Although the city sits at more than 7,000 feet in elevation, the air is anything but crisp and clean.

"The air pollution is significantly worse than what I expected," said Darrel Rammeyer, corn producer from the Illinois Corn Board and member of a recent U.S. Feed Grains Council Fact-Finding Mission to Latin America.

"There is certainly a need for some clean burning ethanol to run in the gas tanks down here," said Rammeyer.

Mexico is doing a number of things to address the air pollution

problem that plagues Mexico City. Among these are severe emissions restriction requirements placed on taxis, trucks and buses, a requirement that passengers cars must have an engine tune up at least once every six months, and a requirement that passenger vehicles cannot be on the road more than six days a week. Each vehicle has a code on the license plate that indicates the day of the week that it may not be driven.

"The most severe deterrent was a hike in the price of gas announced by the government while we were there," said John Whipple, mission member from the Iowa Corn Promotion Board.

"Unleaded gas went up 25 percent and leaded gas went up 55 percent," said Whipple. The price of gas in Mexico now exceeds that in the United States.

"We see a natural market here for ethanol," said Rammeyer. "Yes, Mexico is an oil producer, but they are also a gasoline importer." Mexico is importing as much as 10 percent of their gasoline because of a shortage of refining capacity, and that might as well be ethanol from the United States, according to Whipple. Ethanol would help solve their pollution problem and open up another market for U.S. corn growers, he said.

Rammeyer and Whipple were part of a 14 member fact-finding mission to Latin America sponsored by the U.S. Feed Grains Council. The objective of the mission was to identify new market opportunities for feed grains and feed grains-based products such as ethanol. A full report of the mission's findings and recommendations will be presented to the board of directors of the council in February.

**MILK.  
IT DOES A  
BODY GOOD.**

# KUBOTA GIVES YOU ROOM TO GROW.



B2150HST



L2650DTW



M4030SU

## TO GROW.

Row crops need their space. Which is why there's a Kubota to fit right into your scheme of things. Like the B2150 HST you see just above. Its compact size keeps you out of tight spots by getting you easily into them. Four wheel drive, three cylinders, power steering, and hydrostatic transmission will make light work of loading, tilling, and spraying.

Or you could be working on the L2650DTW with Kubota's Ever Clutch, a wet clutch disc system that operates immersed in oil. Mechanical 8F/8R shuttle shift and hydrostatic power steering are standard and give smooth, dependable operation.

The utility tractor M4030SU specializes in doing just about everything. With a smooth powerful six cylinder diesel engine and 42 PTO HP, it can help with planting, cultivating, or bringing in the hay. And every Kubota lets you 3-point hitch up to a whole world of implements. Kubota-made or otherwise.

Kubota Tractor Corporation markets a full line of tractors through a nationwide network of over 1,000 dealers.

**Kubota**

## See Your Local Kubota Dealer

### PENNSYLVANIA

Alburtis  
CANNIS-BILCO  
215-820-0222

Allenwood  
ALLENWOOD  
RENTAL  
& SUPPLY  
717-538-2595

Avondale  
THOMAS POWER  
EQUIP., INC.  
215-268-2181

Bloomsburg  
TRACTOR  
PARTS CO.  
717-784-0250

Chambersburg  
STOUFFER  
BROS., INC.  
717-263-8424

Chester Co.  
HEITZMAN  
EQUIP., INC.  
Rte 100 - Glenmoore  
215-458-8525

Cochranville  
STOLTZFUS FARM  
SERVICE, INC.  
215-593-2407

Jersey Shore  
THOMAS  
L. DUNLAP  
717-398-1391

Honesdale  
MARSHALL  
MACHINERY, INC.  
717-729-7117

Lebanon  
KELLER BROS.  
TRACTOR CO.  
717-949-2000

Lancaster  
KELLER BROS.  
TRACTOR CO.  
717-569-2500

Mifflinburg  
MIFFLINBURG  
FARM  
SUPPLY, INC.  
717-966-3114

Reading  
NICARRY  
EQUIPMENT CO.  
215-926-2441

Stroudsburg  
SEBRING'S  
POWER HOUSE  
717-421-8980

York  
YORK TRACTOR,  
INC.  
717-764-1094

MARYLAND  
Hagerstown  
ARNETT'S  
GARAGE  
301-733-0515

Chester town  
W.N. COOPER  
& SON, INC.  
410-778-3464

Rising Sun  
AG IND. EQUIP.  
CO. INC.  
301-658-5568

NEW JERSEY  
Flemington & Clinton  
PONIATOWSKI  
BROS.  
EQUIP. CO. INC.  
908-735-2149

Hainesport  
MATERIAL  
HANDLING  
SYSTEMS  
609-267-6100

Shiloh  
ROBERT G.  
HAMPTON  
609-451-9520