



Livestock Ledger

By
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Remodeling Livestock Buildings

The "best" remodeled building is often one that requires fewest modifications.

When an existing building must be changed drastically to meet current needs, consider constructing a new building. Analyze the existing building to determine if it is more suited for some other future purpose rather than the one you have in mind. For example, an uninsulated machine shed is easier to remodel for a swine breeding/gestation barn than for a farrowing or nursery facility. Therefore, consider a new building for the nursery and remodel the machine shed for gestation.

Remodeling is not always the cheaper route, either. When re-

modeling costs are more than 50-65 percent of the new building cost, a new building is usually best. Remodeling costs include any demolition of interior structural components and concrete floors. Consider cost and availability of construction labor. Because of the many "unknowns" in remodeling, many farm builders are hesitant to accept remodeling jobs.

Before remodeling, carefully evaluate the existing building's structure, consider location, and plan for suitable manure management.

Keeping Hogs Cool This Summer

When the thermometer hits 90°F, hogs reach the "upper critical temperature" according to the

National Pork Producer Council's "Swine Care Handbook."

Water-based cooling systems are the best way to keep hogs comfortable when temperatures rise. Drippers, misters, sprayers, and evaporative methods are some of the water-based cooling systems available.

If you use drippers, make sure the water outlets are not clogged. The same applies to mister nozzles and sprinklers.

A hypodermic needle will sometimes work to unclog drippers. The relatively low cost of dripper nozzles makes replacing them a reasonable option.

Check automatic timers on these units as well. If you don't have drippers, now is the time to install them — they'll pay for themselves in one summer. When temperatures exceed 85°F, sows take in 40 percent less feed and reduce milk production about 40 percent. This, of course, will translate to a drop in litter weights and potentially increase preweaning mortality.

USDA Dedicated To Safe Meat Supply

Ensuring the public's health by

assuring a safe meat and poultry supply is a premium goal for the United States Department of Agriculture. Dr. Jill Hollingsworth with the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the USDA said this country has the safest meat and poultry supply in the world, but even good safety procedures can always become better.

"We realize that we have to take a different approach to food safety procedures. We've been working on it, we've made some changes, we've modernized, but progress has been extremely slow," she said. "An outbreak like E.coli certainly raises everyone's sensitivities. We have a new administration — a new secretary who's very focused on food safety and has it as a high priority. So it's basically opened up a window of opportunity for us to move faster than we ever have before."

Hollingsworth said to accomplish a better inspection system a two-track plan has been developed. The first step, after answering the many questions, is a short-range goal and would incorporate a pathogen reduction strategy, as well as continually educating the

public. "What can we do on the farm to make the animals going to slaughter safer?" she said. "What can we do in the are of slaughter and when the meat is processed to make it safer? Then we have a very strong component with the consumers, because no matter what we do right now, no matter how much science we apply, we cannot guarantee that raw meat and poultry products will be pathogen free. These are animals, pathogens live in these animals. Animals aren't sick from these pathogens, people get sick from the pathogens. So what we have to do is be sure the consumer understands they play a very important role in food safety."

Hollingsworth adds that the second step is a long-range goal that starts from scratch designing the best food safety inspection system possible and using expertise from around the world.

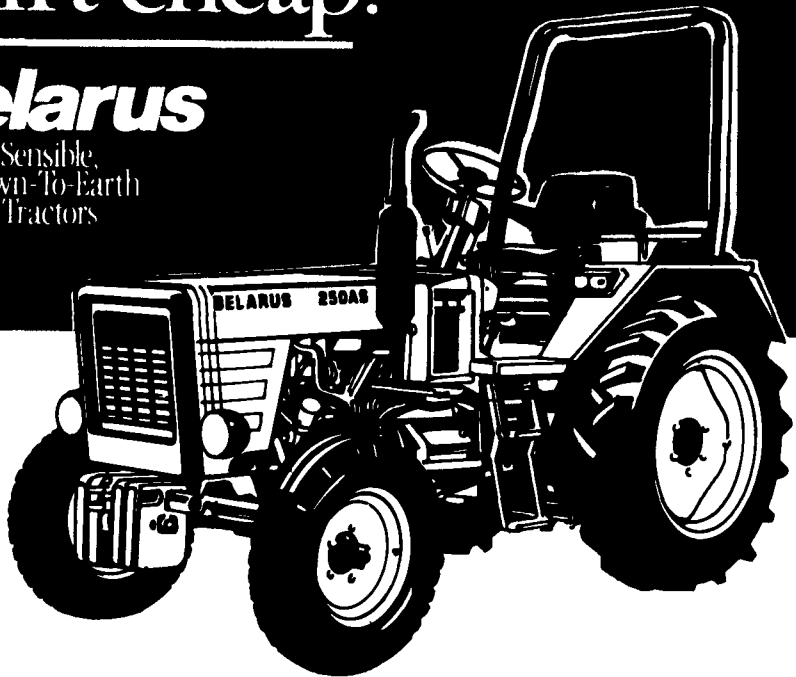
Hollingsworth was one of 25 prominent food safety experts, along with representatives from the National Livestock and Meat Board, that met for a roundtable

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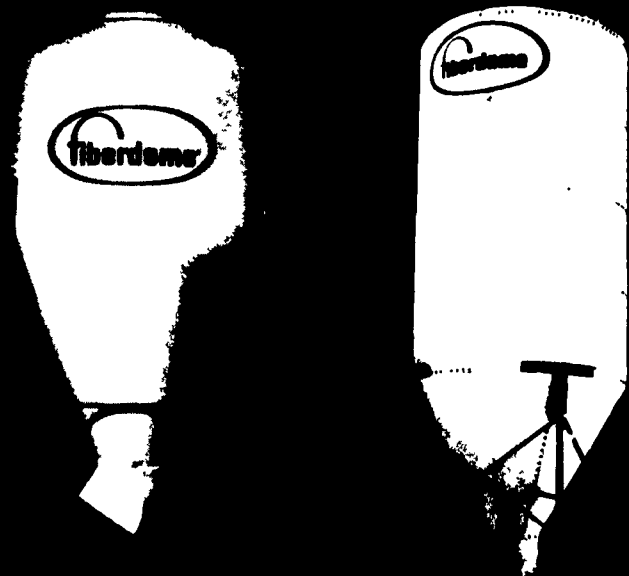


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