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PROFITS IN SWINE SANITATION

A radio talk by Dr. Benjamin Schwartz, Bureau of Animal Industry, delivered through WRC and 31 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, 12:55 p.m., Thursday, February 13, 1930.

The past 10 years have seen what amounts to a revolution in the production methods of the hog industry. The old methods of raising swine in permanent hog lots have steadily given way to an improved method -- the so-called swine sanitation system.

You know the history of the new method. The Bureau of Animal Industry in the United States Department of Agriculture developed it. Many of you know the principles of the swine sanitation system, and practice them. Today, as the farrowing season again draws near, I merely want to place before you again the facts which show that swine sanitation helps cut down hog production costs.

Runtiness, unthriftiness and deaths are common among pigs raised in old hog lots and on permanent pastures. Swine raisers who use the old system commonly market only a little more than half the pigs farrowed. The other half die before they are ready for market. Some deaths even now are due to accidents of various sorts. But the heaviest death toll is exacted by parasites and diseases. The swine sanitation system protects the young pigs from parasites and helps prevent some of the common swine diseases. Thus it tides the young pigs over the most critical period of their lives and cuts in half losses due to death and unthriftiness.

In McLean County, Illinois, where the swine-sanitation system was originally tested under farm conditions, for a period of 6 years, more than three-fourths of the pigs farrowed were marketed. The few that died succumbed to hog cholera and various accidents which could have been prevented to a large extent by more careful management. Please remember, by the way, that swine sanitation does not prevent hog cholera. To obtain the best results from swine sanitation it is essential to protect pigs from cholera by the approved methods of immunization.

The essential steps in swine sanitation are as follows: The farrowing house should be thoroughly cleaned and then scrubbed with hot water and lye. The sows should be washed with warm water and soap before they are placed in the clean farrowing pens. It is especially essential to wash around the udders, in order to remove adhering dirt which may contain eggs of parasites and disease germs. After the sow and pigs have remained in the clean pens for from 10 days to two weeks and have thus been protected from contact with other hogs, they should be hauled -- not driven -- to a clean pasture previously prepared and sown to a suitable forage crop. The pigs should be kept on the clean pasture and away from older hogs, other than their mothers, until they are at least four months old. In case of fall farrowing, it is not necessary to wash the sows if they have been on

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pasture during the summer and are not encrusted with mud. The pregnant sow may be put directly on the clean pastures a few days before fall farrowing. The procedure used for fall farrowing in the North is applicable to the South throughout the year, as the mild southern climate does not call for permanent farrowing houses.

Hundreds of farmers in the Middle West, in the South, and elsewhere by following these simple precautions have increased their pig crops by about 50 per cent without increasing their breeding stock. Moreover, the pigs raised under these simple sanitary procedures are usually ready for market about two months earlier than pigs raised under the old system. Here is a chance to make a great saving in feed and to avoid the risk of disease shortening the fattening period. Farmers who do not desire to increase their usual quantity of pork can still effect a great saving by reducing the number of sows required to produce their present crop of pigs. Under the swine-sanitation system as many pigs can be raised from 2 sows as were ordinarily raised from 3 sows with the old plan. This effects a considerable saving, as it has been estimated that it costs as much as \$50 a year to feed a sow where a large proportion of the feed must be purchased.

If you are getting only a fair return on your investment in hogs you can increase your net profit per sow by adopting the swine-sanitation system as hundreds of farmers have been doing for the past decade. If your ventures in pig raising have been unprofitable, it may be largely because you need to follow the example of farmers who have converted similar losses into profits by the practice of sanitation. It does not pay to feed parasites; feed for pork production.