

United States Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Industry
Zoological Division

THE CONTROL OF WORM INFESTATION IN PIGS
(Swine Sanitation)

OBJECT OF THE WORK: To prevent damage by worms to newly-born and young, growing pigs. Worm infestation in pigs causes them to become stunted and runty, and lowers their vitality and resistance to disease. They never fully recover from this set-back. They require a longer period for growth to market weight under good feeding. Worm control means quicker growth, shorter feeding periods, and surer profits.

THE PLAN: HOW TO CARRY OUT THE WORK ON THE FARM: Before farrowing, the sow must be clean (washed if necessary), and must be placed in a clean field or pasture where there have been no hogs during the past two or three years, or in a field that has been plowed and cultivated since hogs were on it. When the sow farrows her litter in such a field, the pigs will not come in contact with worm infection as in the old hog lots and pastures in which the soil is heavily contaminated with the eggs and larvae of various species of worms.

PERIOD TO KEEP SOW AND PIGS IN CLEAN FIELDS: The pigs must remain in the clean field until at least four months of age. The sow may be removed from the field at the time the pigs are weaned (when sixty or seventy days old), but the pigs must remain in the clean field until there is no danger of serious damage by intestinal roundworms if the pigs are exposed to worm infection. After the pigs are four months old they may be put on fields or in lots for feeding and fattening or for any purpose desired.

The handling of sow and pigs in clean fields as a control measure for parasites is based on the known habits and mode of development of the roundworms of pigs. These worms cause heavy losses in the swine industry, especially among young pigs.

For information on this subject, write to Dr. E. M. Nighbert, Moultrie, Ga., or to the Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington, D. C.

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