



Footing is improved for boars on the new breeding mat.

SOLVES MATING PROBLEM ON SLICK FLOORS

Breeding Mat For Sows, Gilts

A rubber breeding mat designed to solve the problem of trying to hand-mate sows on slick floors has been introduced by Baker's Akers, a family farm hog confinement operation at State Center, Iowa. The Bakers claim the mat, dreamed up over coffee around the farm kitchen table, gives the boar sure footing while up on his two back legs, enabling him to walk forward or back without slipping.

The product is claimed to eliminate slipping in any breeding pen. One breeding stock producer, a neighbor of the Bakers, uses one on the floor of a hog trailer: that is pulled around among outside sow pens for "portable breeding".

The Bakers claim the mat reduces injuries and can increase conception rates. It measures 5 x 6½ ft., weighs 60 lbs., and can be picked up readily for pen cleaning, or for moving to another location. The mat is 5/8 in. thick and is made of vulcanized rubber. The holes are staggered.

List price is \$289.

Bob Baker, of Baker's Akers, says the mat "really solves the problem of getting sows mated on slick floors. We were breeding on partial slats and solid concrete that had been roughed up a little. I spent a lot of time holding up boars and holding up tails, trying to be of help.

"The first mating or two of a day in a breeding pen might be okay, but a boar sometimes likes to spread his scent all around the pen, and urinates everywhere. Then, it's too slippery for good footing.

Conception rate is 90 to 100% on first heat at the Baker operation, thanks largely to the new rubber mat.

The mat seems to rise above manure that is dropped, and only infrequent cleanings are necessary. It can be used on any kind of flooring and mats can be cut to fit different size pens.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ILECO, 406 W. Depot Ave., Fairfield, Iowa 52556 (ph 515 472-2153).

HELP PREVENT LAMENESS, REDUCE SLIPPAGE

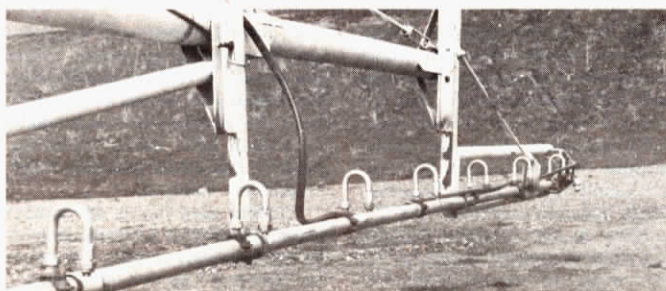
Whoa! Check These Rubber Horseshoes

New urethane-rubber horseshoes help prevent lameness, reduce slipping and provide greater comfort for the horse, according to the Trailmaster Horseshoe Co. Their rubber shoes have been tested for five years on more than 5,000 horses.

The shoes are attached in the same way as steel shoes and, as with steel shoes, they must be removed periodically for trimming of the hoof. However, Trailmaster claims the shoes last at least as long or longer than

steel shoes. Available in a wide range of sizes to fit any horse, the shoes are claimed to be especially good for horses with sore feet. They also help cushion the step of horses used on pavement. "Our rubber shoes don't damage paving like steel shoes do either," the manufacturer points out.

Trailmaster urethane-rubber horseshoes cost more than steel shoes, with price dependent on the style ordered. The material is molded over a steel frame — one model features the



Loops carry powders and residue up and out of the boom without clogging nozzles.

KEEP RESIDUE FROM CLOGGING NOZZLES

Spray Boom "Loops" Cut Costly Down Time

If you do any spraying at all, you'll like this simple spray boom attachment that makes nozzles virtually plug-proof under even the worst conditions.

Lloyd's Loops, invented by Dick Lloyd of Lewiston, Idaho, are installed on a rigid spray boom by turning the boom upside down and screwing them into the nozzle holes. The nozzle is re-attached to the lower end of the loop, which is manufactured from 1/4 in. aluminum piping.

"Anytime you're spraying, but especially with wettable powders, suspended material settles out along the bottom of the boom when the sprayer is off. When it's turned on again, the flow of water carries everything right down into the nozzles. With our loop attachment, water flows above the sediment and thus picks material up gradually from where it's settled," explains Lloyd.

"Anyone using flat fan, even-spray or other small orifice tips on their sprayer can benefit, as well as anyone using drop nozzles from a rigid boom. To a lesser extent, the loops can also be used to prevent plugging in a flexible line spray setup.

"With an additional coarse screen, which can be added between the loop and the boom, and a fine screen be-



To install, turn the boom upside down and screw the Loop into the nozzle hole.

tween the loop and the nozzle body, we've found that more than 80% of clogging problems will disappear," says Lloyd.

Standard loops to fit most sprayer makes sell for right at \$4.65 each. Some sprayers require special adapter rings.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lloyd's Loops, The Lloyd Ranch, Route 1, Box 91, Lewiston, Idaho 83501 (ph 208 743-3622).



Rubber horseshoes attach in the same way as steel shoes and last as long, says the manufacturer.

basic "horseshoe" shape, and another has a steel bar across the back of the shoe. Shoes are also available with a therapeutic pad covering the bottom of the hoof.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Trailmaster Horseshoe Co., Box 177, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. 49783 (ph 906 647-6653).