

New Products For Hog Producers



Portable "Weigh And Sort" Trailer

Sorting hogs for market is easy with this new portable "weigh and sort" chute equipped with its own electronic weigh scale. A self-centering gate lets one person sort hogs according to weight and then either direct them for loading or back to the pen for further finishing.

"It takes the guesswork out of sorting hogs for market and makes it a one-person operation," says Gerald Roose, president, Roose Mfg. Co., Pella, Iowa. "Many hog producers are switching to the grade and yield marketing system which calls for marketing hogs of uniform weight. Some packers even require that hogs weigh within 7 lbs. of the group's average weight or they get docked. Wives like this unit because they don't have to hold a gate or get run down by hogs while trying to sort them. It also works great with sheep."

Plastic Brooder Box For Baby Pigs

New polyethylene brooder box creates a healthy, ventilated environment for baby pigs that results in a higher survival rate, according to Hampel Corp., Germantown, Wis.

The "Pig-tel Comfort Hutch" replaces the divider board between farrowing crates. It's built in two sections which can be accessed from either or both sides. The top of each section has a clear plastic access lid that provides a clear view of pigs inside. The lid has a "cam" lever that's adjusted to let more or less outside air into the box. A 75 watt light bulb provides heat. The bottom of the brooder box is lined with a polyethylene floor mat.

"It provides a warm, draft free environment for baby pigs that pays for itself in improved production, lower health and heating costs, and more baby pigs saved per litter," says Don Gurda, sales manager. "After nursing, baby pigs return to the box for shelter and comfort. They're out of the way of the sow which reduces the number of pigs lost due to crushing. Lower heating costs are possible because you can use household bulbs instead of expensive high-watt heat lamps or heat mats. The temperature in the brooder box should be kept at about 90 degrees, but the temperature in the farrowing building can be 70 degrees or lower, resulting in tremendous energy savings. Cooler sows will stay healthier and produce more milk."

The 2-wheel trailered unit can be manually lowered to the ground by pulling a pin, lowering the unit, and removing the axle assembly. The tongue slides in out of the way. The unit has brackets on both ends for attaching alleyway gates, if needed. The bottom of one panel is hinged, allowing it to pivot outward for larger animals.

The weigh scale operates off a 12-volt battery or 110-volt current. Its digital indicator display "locks on" to the animal's weight even while the animal continues to move.

Sells for \$2,200.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roose Mfg. Co., Rt. 3, Box 322, Pella, Iowa 50219 (ph 800 552-3276 or 515 628-2529).



The brooder box has drain holes at the bottom on each side allowing it to be washed inside with a high pressure hose. Adjusts to fit most crate sizes.

Sells for \$179.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hampel Corp., Box 39, Germantown, Wis. 53022 (ph 414 255-4540 or 800 558-8558).

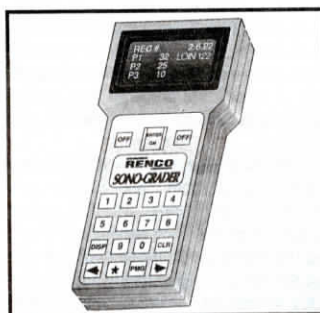
Backfat Tester With A "Brain"

They're calling this the first programmable backfat tester with a computer-based memory. It allows you to store the ultrasound test results, and weights, of up to 200 hogs and keep track of each one by ID number.

The "Sono-Grader" tests for total depth of backfat at three locations - over the front shoulder, the tenth or last rib, and over the ham. You can test loin muscle depth at the tenth or last rib at the same time as the backfat test.

The hog's ID number and weight is keyed in with the keyboard, or you can hook it up to an electronic scale to record weight automatically. Once recorded, you can upload the data to a computer or simply print out the records.

Keeping track of individual hog performance makes it easier to select the best breeding stock for your herd or you can group similar lots together to improve the grade



and yield return from the packer and minimize sort loss discount.

Unit is operated by four AA batteries. It's expected to be available by this fall.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Renco Corp., 116 Third Ave. N., Minneapolis, Minn. 55401 (ph 612 338-6124 or 800 359-8181).

"Totally-Adjustable" Farrowing Crate

This new farrowing crate is totally adjustable and provides the sow with maximum comfort while keeping baby pigs safe, says Hollam Inter-Products, Inc., Marysville, Ohio.

The PC100 crate is designed to be installed inside a 5-ft. wide by 8 ft. long farrowing stall. Baby pigs are free to walk around the entire crate rather than being confined to one corner. Length and width of crate are adjustable.

"Anti-crush bars on each side are bent inward to force the sow to lie down slowly and quietly to reduce crushing of baby pigs. The distance between bars can be changed according to sow size," says Jeff Ramsfield, marketing manager. He says the crate was designed to meet both present and future hog-raising needs. "We think that within five years the average sow will be 100 lbs. heavier than now and will farrow an average of 15 pigs per litter. This crate can easily be adjusted to provide maximum comfort and safety to any size sow. Baby pigs are free to walk almost completely around the crate to help reduce crushing and deaths. Conventional farrowing crates confine baby pigs to a corner of the pen, forcing them to walk across the crate to nurse."

The sow has access to a nipple drinker or



can drink water from her feed bowl. "Keeping the feed bowl full of water for the first 24 hours after farrowing lets the sow get all the water she wants. Lets her come into milk faster which helps big litters of baby pigs get off to a fast start. She doesn't have to work at drinking from a nipple and run the risk of dehydration," notes Ramsfield.

Sows can enter the crate from either the side or rear. The rear end of the crate is equipped with a concave gate that can be reversed to change crate length by 4 in. The front end of the crate lifts up and swings out to provide side access.

Sells for right at \$530.

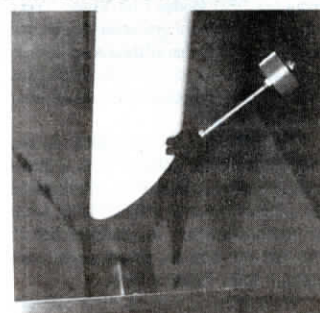
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hollam Inter-Products, Inc., 1561 Milford Ave., Box 324, Marysville, Ohio 43040-0324 (ph 513 642-7682).

Feed Tube Shut-Off Controls Dust

"It reduces feed dust by up to 85% in hog confinement buildings which is good for hogs and good for the farmer," says Gary Peterson, Gillis Agricultural Systems, Inc., about the company's new "Dust-Limiter" feed tube.

The Dust-Limiter replaces the existing feed drop tube, attaching directly to the drop outlets on your feed pipe line. It consists of a 64-in. long plastic tube with a counterweighted flap at the outlet end. The flap slows the velocity of feed falling through the tube, trapping dust particles inside.

A counterweight on the flap holds it closed until enough feed has entered the tube to slowly force the flap open, allowing feed to trickle out of the tube and into the feeder. The counterweight arm is threaded into a brass insert on the flap. By turning the counterweight arm you can adjust the counterbalance weight for different feed densities. All types of feed, including pel-



lets, can be used. Performance is not affected by the addition of fats or oils to the ration.

Sells for \$29.95.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gillis Agricultural Systems, Inc., East Hwy. 12, Box 250, Willmar, Minn. 56201 (ph 612 235-0444).