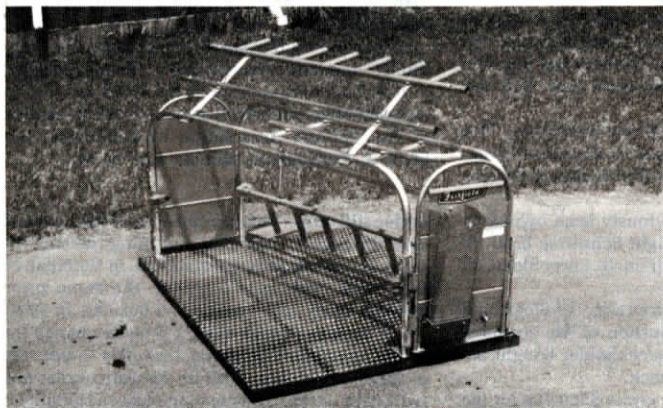


# You'll Like These New-Style Farrowing Crates



The 2 by 7 ft. crate sits diagonally on 5 by 6½ ft. deck.

## Herringbone-Style Crates

"This revolutionary design allows you to put up to 60% more farrowing stalls in a given amount of space," says International Livestock Equipment Co. (Ileco), Fairfield, Iowa, of its new space-saving herringbone-style crates.

Each 2 ft. by 7 ft. crate sits diagonally on a 5 by 6½ ft. deck.

"This herringbone configuration not only saves space, but also gives you a clear view of the sow's head and rear end, and the litter, each time you walk past in the alleyway," explains Cloyce Palmer, president of Ileco.

A nursery 54 ft. long by 12 ft. wide, for example, will accommodate ten conventional 5 by 7 ft. farrowing stalls placed side by side, with a 3 ft. alley at the front, a 2 ft. alley at the rear, and a 2 ft. wide alley along each sidewall.

That same 12 by 54 ft. nursery will accommodate 16 "herringbone" crates — a whopping 60% increase. They're positioned lengthwise with eight crates pushed up tight against each sidewall. There's a 2 ft. wide working alley at the one end of the building, and a 2 ft. wide alley running down the center between the two rows of crates.

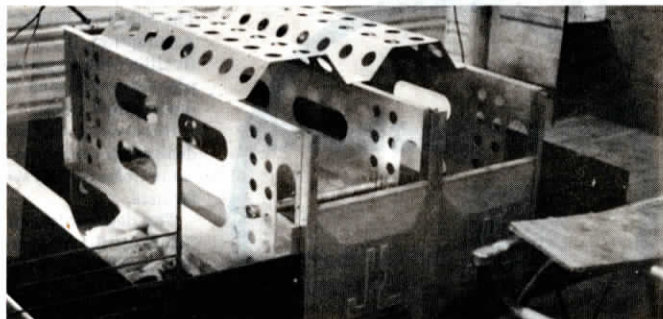
The deck of each crate is installed with the side against the building 3 in. higher than the opposite "alley" side.

"When the sow farrows, her pigs instinctly head downhill and to the heat lamp," explains Palmer.

Shortly before farrowing, adjustable side rails are set so they'll squeeze the sow if she tries to lay down without first dropping to her knees. "After two or three day's training, she learns to do it instinctively and the rails can be returned to normal width. Training her to not flop down on her rear without first dropping to her knees helps prevent laid-on pigs," Palmer points out.

He adds that the herringbone-style crates are cost competitive with conventional crates on a crate for crate basis. They're made of 1½ in. dia. tubular steel which is galvanized both inside and out. Pigs can nurse on either side of the diagonal crates which come in "lefts" and "rights".

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ileco, 601 S. 23rd St., P.O. Box 870, Fairfield, Iowa 52556 (ph 515 472-2153).



Configuration of crates can be double-sow, double-creep as shown, or creep-sow, creep-sow.

## "Sensible Sow System"

Billed as "the newest approach to farrowing in 40 years," it allows you to put more pigs into a given space for less cost, according to John Lawson, Leesbury, Ind., inventor-manufacturer.

Instead of creep areas on both sides, small pigs are confined to a single one-side creep area. They nurse when and if the sow is laying on her "nursing" side. And, instead of round tubular steel, the crate's side rails are made of flat steel slates.

The configuration of side by side Lawson crates can be a creep-sow-creep-sow, etc., or it can be double sow, double creep, etc.

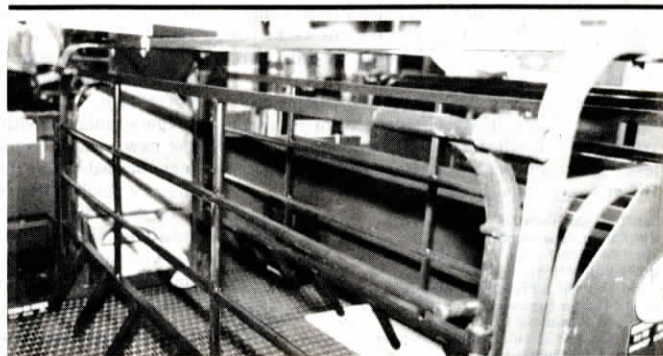
"With a heat lamp in the single creep area, pigs instinctly know where to go as soon as they're born. There's no confusion or hesitation," notes Lawson.

"Conventional crates generally have an 18 in. wide creep on each side of a 24 in. wide crate. By going to a single sided creep 24 in. swide, we give the pigs more space in the occupied creep and, at the same time, allow you to put 20% more sows into a given size nursery," he points out.

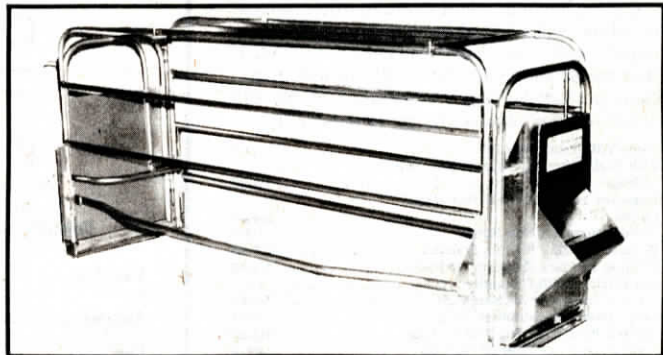
"We've discovered that sows lay on the wrong side about four times to one. They seem to appreciate the opportunity to take a nursing break."

Lawson feels flat steel slats are less subject to corrosion and to bacteria buildup since there are no hidden inside-the-pipe spaces for germs to hide.

For more information on Lawson's "Sensible Sow System," contact: FARM SHOW Followup, J. D. Lawson Inc., Rt. 1, Box 83, Leesbury, Ind. 46538 (ph 219 453-3735).



Top and bottom rails of Modern Hog Concept crate are made of 1 in. sq. solid steel, and in-between horizontal rails of 7/8 in. dia. solid round steel rods.



Rails of "Great Lakes" crate are made of 1 in. solid round steel. Front is 1 in. solid steel and 12 ga. plate steel.

## Solid Steel Construction

Increasing demand for farrowing crates resistant to rust and corrosion and the high cost of stainless steel — has prompted at least two firms to go to solid steel material instead of steel tubing.

"We've had tremendous interest in this new approach," says a spokesman for Great Lakes Farm Supply, Holland, Mich. The firm uses 1 in. dia. solid steel rods for both the side and end rails. Individual crates (22 by 84 in.) weigh about 365 lbs. and are guaranteed for 15 years They've sold factory-direct for \$25 each.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Great Lakes Farm Supply, 969 S. Washington, Holland, Mich. 49423 (ph 616 396-3276).

Also new on the market with farrowing crates made of solid steel

material is Modern Hog Concepts, of Iowa Falls, Iowa.

The company uses square (1 in. by 1 in.) sold steel bars for the top and bottom of crate sides and ends. Round solid steel stock (7/8 in. dia.) is used for the horizontal rails running between the heavier top and bottom rails.

"Our new crates are corrosion proof, yet are in the same ballpark pricewise with conventional crates," says Gene Kirgis, sales representative.

Individual solid steel crates weigh about 500 lbs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Modern Hog Concepts, Brooks Road, Iowa Falls, Iowa 50126 (ph 515 648-5060).