

1960

EC60-1904 Insure Hog Health

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist>

"EC60-1904 Insure Hog Health" (1960). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 3519.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist/3519>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Extension at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

INSURE HOG HEALTH

with SPF SWINE (formerly disease-free)

One of the most recent advancements in the production of pork has been the development of the Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) swine program. The greatest benefit of this method of raising swine apparently is the elimination and prevention of certain growth-retarding diseases. This method was formerly known as the "disease-free" pig program.

In this program pigs are taken from the sow by hysterectomy, reared in isolation to a suitable age, and then placed on farms for normal growth and reproduction. The offspring of these hogs can be used to repopulate other farms. Fundamental management practices are explained in this circular.

Following are some of the reasons for raising SPF pigs:

1. Eliminate disease (reduce drug bills).
2. Raise more pigs from the same number of sows.
3. Grow pigs more rapidly on less feed.
4. More net profit for the hog producer.

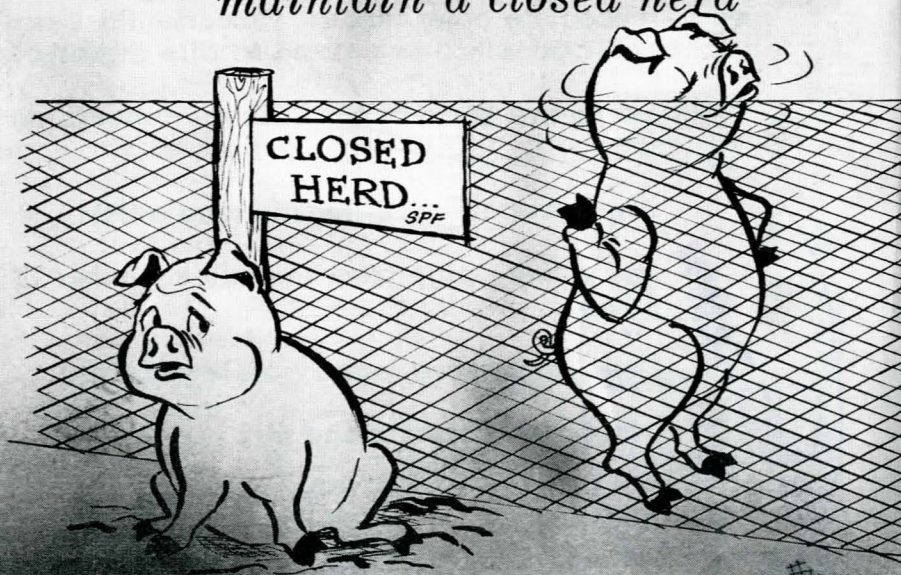
EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND U S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COOPERATING
E F FROLIK, DEAN E W JANIKE, DIRECTOR





protect by immunization...

maintain a closed herd



Swine Health Problems

Discuss your swine health problems with your veterinarian. He will explain the isolation and sanitation procedures necessary to maintain SPF swine. Your county agent also can assist you with management and nutrition problems. If you decide to raise SPF swine, it will be necessary for you to follow the steps outlined in the following pages. For satisfactory results with SPF stock, whether commercial or certified, there can be no deviation from these methods. At the present time, THERE ARE NO SHORT-CUTS which will make this program any easier.

Sources of SPF Swine

1. Commercial Laboratories: A commercial laboratory is equipped to take pigs from sows by hysterectomy and raise the pigs in isolation until they are four weeks of age. If you decide to begin SPF swine production with pigs direct from the laboratory, you will need to take these steps:

- a. Visit a laboratory with your veterinarian.
- b. Decide whether to use your sows, some other breeder's sows, or both.
- c. Breed the sows to coincide with the arranged date at the laboratory.

The exact breeding date is important as the sows must be bred so that the 112th day of gestation is the same day the laboratory is to do the hysterectomy.

2. Certified SPF Herds: Offspring from these herds may be used to stock other farms for the production of certified SPF stock. To be certified Specific Pathogen Free, herds must meet certain standards of growth and health as determined by records, observation on the farm, and inspection at slaughter. Information concerning the certification program may be obtained from your county agent or the SPF coordinator.

3. Non-certified Herds: Hogs will also be available that originated from SPF stock. These hogs are not eligible for certification because performance and health

status were either not determined or found to be unsatisfactory. From a practical standpoint, it is advisable to consider only certified SPF swine or those direct from the laboratory.

Preparation of Premises

Remove all swine from the farm 30-45 days before the SPF pigs are received so that lots, yards, buildings and equipment can be cleaned and disinfected.

Lots & Yards

1. Remove all sticks, stones, metal or other objects not used for the care of swine.
2. Remove all manure from the hog lot.
3. Drain and fill all mudholes; establish proper drainage.

Buildings & Equipment

All methods of cleaning require time and manpower. Scrapers, brushes (both wire and fiber) may be used to clean manure or other organic material from walls, floors, ceilings, partitions and fences. The interior of all buildings and lower exterior surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned. Feeders and waterers must be emptied and cleaned inside and out by thorough scrubbing, scouring and/or scraping. After all dirt is removed, the cleaning should be followed with the application of an antiseptic or sanitizing solution. This solution may be used as a scrubbing agent. Suggested disinfectants are:

- (a) Hot lye water: (one can of lye to five gallons of water)
- (b) Commercial disinfectants: (should contain at least 50% cresylic acid) Use according to manufacturers' directions.
- (c) Soda Ash: (1 pound to 3 gallons water)
- (d) Sal soda: (13 1/2 ounces to one gallon of water)
Rinse all floors and equipment with clean water after using soda products.
- (e) Chlorine solution or powder: (use according to directions)

When working with any of these solutions, especially soda solutions, use care not to get the material in your eyes or on the skin. Read the label and follow instructions.

Steam cleaners and high pressure sprayers are very efficient aids in cleaning buildings and equipment. The man-hours saved in cleaning time may enable the larger producers to use this method more economically. One may think that a single cleaning is all that will be required. On the contrary, thorough cleaning must be done before each farrowing to prevent a bacterial buildup that can seriously depress growth rates. Increased performance of the hogs will merit the additional time and labor.

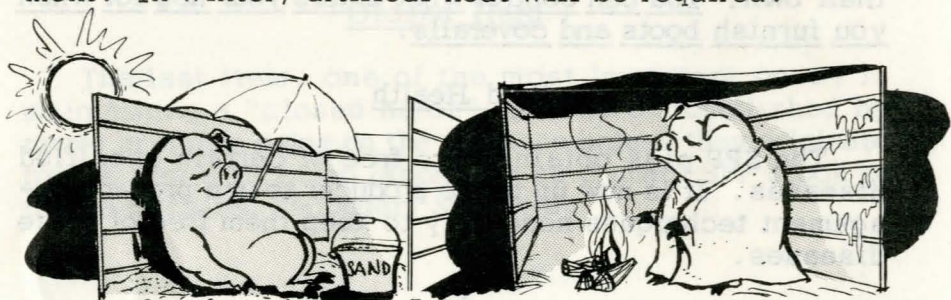
All buckets, measures, scoops, forks, etc. must be thoroughly cleaned at the same time the other equipment is cleaned. Chlorine disinfectants may be used in the steam cleaner under some conditions.

When using the soda products all floors and equipment must be rinsed with clean water.

Stationary and movable houses are all cleaned in the same manner.

Transporting SPF Pigs to the Farm

When getting a small number of four-week-old pigs, a clean box or crate should be used to transport the pigs to the farm in a warm car or other heated vehicle. If one is getting more or larger pigs, plan to haul them in a partitioned area of the truck or pickup. The truck, pickup, or crate should have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected in the manner described for buildings and equipment. In winter, artificial heat will be required.



In transporting market weight or larger SPF hogs provide adequate shade, ventilation and wet sand during hot weather. During cold weather protect from drafts. Sufficient ventilation is a must, winter or summer.

Management and Facilities

Arrange the hog lot feed storage so that feed may be unloaded directly into the storage bins or shed without having to drive the feed truck into the lot. Establish loading and unloading facilities so that no livestock truck enters the hog lot.

Wear clean outer clothing and clean shoes or boots when going to receive the new pigs. Upon arriving home, use the arrangements already provided to eliminate driving the truck or car into the hog lot. Place the pigs in the quarters prepared for them.

Feeding and Watering

Feed the pigs for one week on the same ration that they received at the laboratory. At the end of the first week, start changing the feed by mixing some of the new ration, in increasing amounts, into the laboratory ration. This should be done over a 7-10 day period. Clean, fresh water, free of ice, must be provided at all times.

Post Signs

Post signs stating that SPF swine are on the premises and that visitors cannot enter the hog lots without permission. If they wish to enter these lots, provide clean outer clothing and boots; do not depend on them to furnish their own. You can control what enters your hog lot when you furnish boots and coveralls.

Herd Health

The SPF pigs obtained are free of certain specified diseases. It is now up to the producer to use proper management techniques necessary to keep them free of these diseases.

It is important to remember that rodents are the carriers of many diseases that may prevent your herd from being classified certified SPF. Therefore, it is necessary to establish and maintain a rodent control program.

Immunization

Vaccination against hog cholera is strongly recommended, using attenuated virus vaccine of rabbit origin and anti-hog cholera serum. Although SPF pigs are free of this disease, should cholera be introduced into the herd it could mean a loss of 50-100 percent of the hogs. Vaccination to prevent certain other diseases must be decided by the owner and local veterinarian based on herd and farm history. Other diseases can be avoided by sound management practices, sanitation, and competent veterinary advice on these problems.

Lots and Pastures

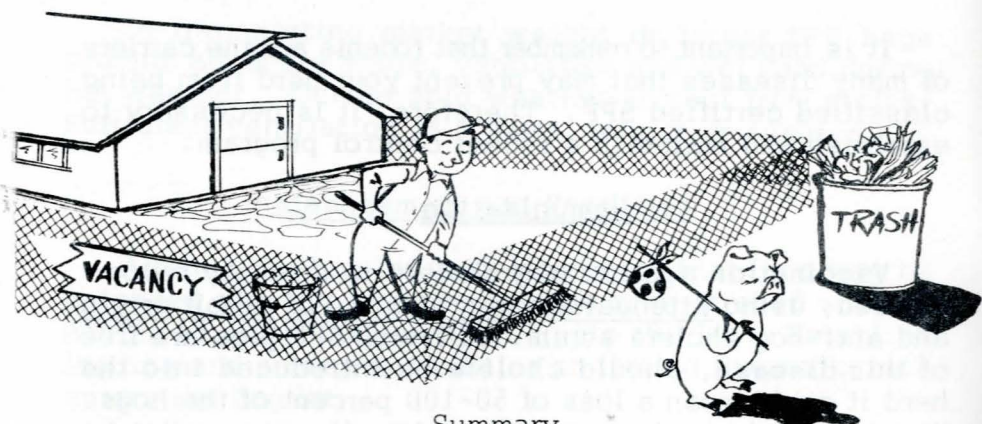
Hog lots and pastures may need to be double-fenced to keep SPF hogs from contact with other swine or farm animals. All other animals must be kept out of the SPF hog lots.

Clothing

The owner of SPF pigs may, if he wishes, wear the same clothes and boots when caring for these animals that he wears when caring for the other farm animals. It is recommended, however, that he have a pair of overalls or coveralls and boots in a convenient place so that he changes his outer clothing and boots when entering the SPF area. This is one of the factors that will help keep the level of infections in SPF herds to a minimum.

Closed Herd

The last item, one of the most important ones, is maintaining a "closed herd." This is accomplished by never bringing swine on the premises unless they originate from either a licensed laboratory as primary SPF stock or from a certified secondary SPF herd.



Summary

1. Depopulate. Remove all swine from premises.
2. Thoroughly clean and disinfect.
3. Rest lots and buildings 30 to 45 days.
4. Bring SPF pigs, to repopulate the farm.
5. Wear clean boots and clothes.
6. Eliminate unnecessary traffic into SPF lots.
7. Keep other animals out of the hog lot.
8. Protect against hog cholera by means of immunization with serum and rabbit origin virus vaccine.
9. Maintain a closed herd.

