

SWINE-SANITATION The continued losses sustained by swine raisers on account of various diseases and conditions, other than hog cholera, have developed a demand for information on effective control measures. The preventive serum treatment, as insurance against cholera, is widely known and used, but swine owners are not so familiar with means for reducing certain other sources of loss.

One of the diseases which stands out prominently is necrotic enteritis, characterized by inflammation of the intestines. This malady is definitely on the increase in many sections of the country. Parasites, both internal and external, also take a heavy toll, though not so much in actual death losses as in retarded growth and reduced vigor. Many pigs also are lost at farrowing time from a variety of causes.

Accepting the challenge of this array of losses, representatives of the Bureau of Animal Industry inaugurated and are now conducting a campaign against them in connection with hog-cholera-control work. The campaign centers chiefly in inducing farmers to keep their hog lots sanitary by following definite recommendations. In many instances these efforts have resulted in a decided increase in the number of pigs saved during the spring farrowing season, the production of a better quality of pigs, and more rapid growth, enabling farmers to market a 200-pound hog at about 6 months of age instead of at 8 or 9 months, as usually happened when no attention was given to sanitary precautions.

In localities where strict sanitary measures have been used necrotic enteritis and internal parasites have practically disappeared, and herds of strong, thrifty shotes, free of runts, may be seen on the farms where the sanitary program was carried out. The program consists essentially in washing sows thoroughly before farrowing, having them farrow in clean quarters, and keeping the young pigs on clean pastures until at least 4 months old. Details of the methods are described in department literature which is furnished on request. In an area where more than 7,000 pigs were grown under the swine-sanitation plan during the spring and summer of 1930, not a single call for assistance came to the bureau veterinarians; whereas in sections where no attention was given to sanitary precautions calls were continually coming for aid in combating necrotic enteritis, intestinal parasites, lung worms, and post-vaccination troubles, which are almost invariably due to some of these conditions.

Conditions that Prevent Normal Growth

It is inconceivable that an animal which is forced to exist under insanitary conditions and becomes diseased can thrive and grow normally. Neither can one expect normal growth from a pig heavily infested with parasites, either internal or external, that sap its strength and reduce its power to assimilate its food. When these simple facts are brought to the attention of a swine grower in language that he understands, and by post-mortem demonstrations (fig. 161), he is quick to realize that the adoption of reasonable sanitary precautions means the difference between health and disease and that that difference is the difference between profit and loss, success and failure. The measure of success achieved depends, to a large extent, on the

effort put forth by the herd owner in following the swine-sanitation program. To follow the plan in any of its essential features produces

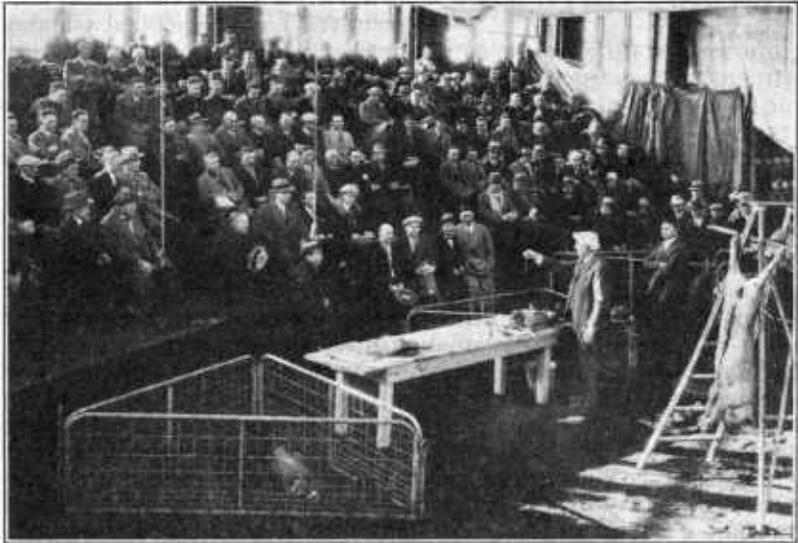


FIGURE 161.—Observing the results of a post-mortem examination at a swine-sanitation meeting

beneficial results, but one should not expect to obtain the best results through only half-hearted methods.



FIGURE 162.—Pigs raised under the sanitation system. Of 95 farrowed, 90 were raised to market weight

Under ordinary farm conditions, with pigs grown under insanitary surroundings, only about 50 in every 100 farrowed are marketed.

Swine sanitation increases the number of pigs reaching the market by about 50 per cent. About 75 in every 100 farrowed are raised successfully. Those lost fall victims to accident and other causes outside the saving influence of the system. By following swine sanitation a farmer can raise more pigs with a given number of sows or he can raise as many and also better pigs with fewer sows. In either case he can obtain a greater financial return for feed consumed.

The following typical experiences illustrate the kind of results obtained. In the fall of 1928 a swine owner in Indiana had 12 sows that farrowed 117 pigs in an old hog lot. Parasitic worms, necrotic enteritis, and other causes reduced the number until he had only 35 left for market the following spring. He also paid out about \$200 for stock powders and tonics to save the pigs, but he lost them anyway. At a sanitation-campaign meeting he signed up as a demonstrator. He kept the same 12 sows and in the spring of 1929 they farrowed 95 pigs. Under sanitary handling and good feeding and housing, 90 of the 95 pigs were raised to market weights. "These pigs were not sick a minute," he said, "and I didn't spend a cent for anything but feed." A portion of his herd is shown in Figure 162.

Another swine grower who adopted the sanitation system because of the large proportion of runty pigs in his herd stated after using the new method two years, "My pigs are ready for market from six weeks to two months earlier."

One of the most interesting experiences was that of a 16-year-old 4-H club boy who entered a litter of 12 pigs in a ton-litter contest. The litter weighed 2,752 pounds when the pigs were 180 days old. They returned \$199.25 over feed cost. When asked how he made his litter weigh so much at so low a cost, he said: "I merely followed instructions on swine sanitation to the letter."

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TAX Research Outlined to Discover Means of Reducing Farm Levies

Continued enlargement of the farmers' tax bill is creating a widespread movement not only for stemming the tide toward future increases, but also for

actual reduction. Resolutions on the subject are being passed with renewed vigor by leading farm organizations and the issue will almost certainly absorb an important part of the time of a majority of State legislatures. Between 1924 and 1929 farm real estate taxes per acre for the United States as a whole increased 7 per cent, while farm real estate values per acre declined 11 per cent. The result is that the "true" tax rate—the ratio of taxes to full value as distinguished from assessed value—increased almost 20 per cent. Stated differently, farm real estate taxes per \$100 of full value increased from \$1.22 in 1924 to \$1.46 in 1929. (Table 21.) Results of the department's research and of studies by experiment stations and other agencies support the conclusion that farm tax revision is desirable from the standpoint of reasonable public policy.¹³

¹³ COOMBS, WHITNEY. TAXATION OF FARM PROPERTY. See especially U. S. Dept. Agr. Tech. Bul. 172, 75 p. 1930.