

Cooler Hogs Mean More 'Cold' Cash

Comfortable hogs gain faster on less feed. Another way we might say it is that "cool hogs mean cold cash." Provide ample shade and water for hogs now. They need it for the next few months.

There are many reasons why we should keep our hogs cool in summer. Probably the most important reason is that it means dollars and cents to the producer. The ideal growing temperature for hogs is between 60 and 75 degrees. Hogs in this temperature range usually produce 100 pounds of gain for

about 350 to 400 pounds of feed. When the average temperature rises to a level of 80 or 90 degrees, the feed requirement to produce 100 pounds of gain is almost double, taking 700 to 800 pounds of feed to produce 100 lbs of gain. When the average temperatures go even higher, up to 95 and 100 degrees, we find that pigs weighing over 150 pounds make no weight gains regardless of the amount of feed. In other words, during hot weather, unless shade and water are provided, hogs are only working half-time. You wouldn't think of hiring someone to work for you and then give them a day's wages for only a half-day's work.

What can be done about keeping hogs cooler? Good shade will reduce the temperature about 10 degrees. A sprinkler under or near shade will reduce the temperature about 10 degrees further. For example if the temperature was 95 in the sun, it would be 85 under good shade, and 75 degrees with a sprinkler and good shade.

We might say there are two

types of shade we can use natural and artificial. Natural shade is fine if you have it; however, in many cases it is not available and then you have to depend on some kind of artificial shade.

Tin shelters which are found on many farms can be made considerably cooler by placing at least six inches of straw or brush on top of the shelter; then putting a piece of old fence wire over the straw to hold it in place. Another type of shelter which is cool is one which is covered with aluminum

tin. Probably one of the cheapest shades we can have for hogs is a straw shelter or brush arbor-type shade which is constructed by making a pole frame and placing 8-12 inches of straw on top of old fence wire and covering with another strip of wire to hold it in place. Tin shelters can also be made cooler by painting the top side aluminum and the under side black.

When you are building shade be sure that you build enough. Sows with a litter of pigs need about 60 square feet of shade. Each growing pig should have 10 to 12 square feet of this shade.

A sanitary concrete hog wallow will pay by providing the refreshing moisture hogs need in hot weather; however, a filthy hole can cost money. The wallow should be located and built so it may be drained and cleaned. One hundred square feet of wallow will handle up to 50 growing pigs if shade is provided on one side or rear.

Don't forget plenty of good, fresh, clean water; pigs should be supplied with at least 2½ gallons of clean drinking water per head per day. When using automatic water fountains provide one drinking cup for each 15 pigs. Remember, if it takes four pounds of feed to make a pound of gain, it takes about five pounds of water to wash it down.

Every third scoop of corn may

page book will be mailed prior to August 1 to last year's exhibitors, County Agents, Home Agents, V-Ag teachers and those handling special educational and inspirational exhibits, according to Dr. J. S. Dorton, fair manager. Another 750 copies will be sent to new prospective exhibitors requesting them.

Two groups of hobby exhibits have been added this year due to popular demand. Folks with either creative or collective hobbies wishing to show their collections should write for a list and entry blanks now.

to fight heat. Shelter from the sun and an ample, always available supply of clean, cool water can account for the difference between warm weather profit or loss.

—E. T. Kornegay, Assistant County Agent, Craven County.



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