KEKA

RAISING PIGS - PART 2

GARY MARKEGARD

MAY 27, 1980

LAST WEEK WE DISCUSSED RAISING PIGS. I TALKED ABOUT VARIOUS BREEDS AND HOW PIGS DIFFER FROM SHEEP AND CATTLE IN THEIR NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

TODAY WE WILL DISCUSS SELECTING AND FEEDING PIGS.

BREEDING ANIMALS SHOULD BE FREE OF DISEASE, PARTICULARLY ATROPHIC RHINITIS AND VIBRIONIC DYSENTRY. RHINITIS CAUSES A CROOKED NOSE AND CONTRIBUTES TO POOR PERFORMANCE. THE SYMPTOM OF DYSENTRY IS BLOODY MUCUS IN THE MANURE.

FEEDER PIGS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY INSPECTED FOR DISEASE SUCH AS RHINITIS AND SCOURS. PIGS OVER 50 POUNDS WILL BE EASIER TO FEED AND RAISE.

SOME PLACES TO BUY PIGS INCLUDE BREEDERS, WANT-ADS IN THE NEWSPAPER, AND LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS. FOR A PERSON JUST GETTING INTO THE PIG BUSINESS, AN AUCTION MARKET ISN'T THE BEST WAY TO BUY PIGS. MOST OF THE TIME THE ANIMALS ARE SOLD RATHER QUICKLY, AND IT'S HARD FOR THE BEGINNER TO UNDERSTAND THE BIDDING PROCESS. THE BEST WAY TO BUY PIGS IS TO TALK WITH THE PRODUCER AND LOOK OVER HIS FACILITIES.

GILTS CAN BE BRED WHEN THEY ARE 6 TO 8 MONTHS OLD AND WEIGH ABOUT 250 POUNDS. BOARS SHOULD BE AT LEAST 8 MONTHS OLD BEFORE BEING USED FOR BREEDING. EXPOSURE TO A BOAR IS NEEDED TO STIMULATE A NORMAL HEAT CYCLE IN THE FEMALE. THE GESTATION PERIOD IS 3 MONTHS, 3 WEEKS, AND 3 DAYS (OR 112-114 DAYS).

MOST SWINE RATIONS ARE BASED ON FEEDS THAT SUPPLY ENERGY - LIKE BARLEY, MILO, AND CORN. PIGS REQUIRE DIFFERENT SOURCES OF PROTEIN, ALONG WITH VITAMINS AND MINERALS FOR PROPER GROWTH AND HEALTH. SOME HIGH PROTEIN

SOURCES INCLUDED IN SWINE FEEDS ARE MEAT SCRAPS, SOYBEAN MEAL, AND ALFALFA MEAL. IF YOU ARE RAISING ONLY A FEW PIGS, IT IS USUALLY BEST TO PURCHASE THE COMPLETE FEED RATHER TO BLEND THE COMPONENTS YOURSELF BECAUSE SWINE FEEDS ARE COMPLEX. GROUND GRAIN WILL PROMOTE MORE EFFICIENT GAINS THAN WHOLE GRAINS.

DIFFERENT WEIGHTS AND CLASSES OF PIGS REQUIRE DIFFERENT TYPES AND AMOUNTS OF FEED. GROWING AND FINISHING PIGS HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAKE RAPID GAINS AND THEREFORE NEED LIBERAL PROPORTIONS OF PROTEIN AND ENERGY IN THEIR RATIONS. THE PERCENT PROTEIN IN THE FEED CAN BE REDUCED AS THE PIGS GROW.

TABLE SCRAPS, CULL FRUIT AND VEGETABLES, AND A VARIETY OF OTHER BYPRODUCT FEEDS CAN ALSO BE FED TO SWINE, BUT THESE FEEDS ALONE WILL NOT PROVIDE A NUTRITIONALLY BALANCED DIET.

THESE BROADCASTS ON RAISING PIGS WEREN'T DESIGNED TO MAKE YOU AN EXPERT; I'VE JUST GIVEN SOME GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR RAISING PIGS. IF YOU DESIRE MORE INFORMATION ON PIGS, PLEASE CALL ME AT 443-0896 OR WRITE TO THE FARM ADVISOR, 5630 SOUTH BROADWAY, EUREKA, CA 95501.

THIS IS GARY MARKEGARD, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA FARM ADVISOR, WISHING YOU A GOOD DAY.

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