

HELP PREVENT SLIPPING, ABRASIONS AND SPRADLE LEGS

"Tenderfoot" Pads Reduce Injuries

Spraddle legs, knee abrasions and sore feet are costly hog problems that can be virtually eliminated with new Tenderfoot Pads, according to Vernon Nielsen, designer.

Tenderfoot Pads for pigs and other livestock are made of a heavy, self-cleaning steel mesh (9 ga.) covered with a soft "plastisol" material. The waffled nature of the mesh gives baby pigs the traction they need to stand and nurse. The durable coating helps reduce abrasions, yet is strong enough for the heaviest of sows to stand on.

The product was developed over several years of experimentation and testing, under practical hog raising conditions, says Nielsen, who is a partner in a hog operation that farrows about 500 pigs a month. "We've found that, in addition to preventing spraddle legs, abrasions and injuries, sow health improved where we used the Pads. With good footing, small pigs massaged the udder better, resulting in better milking and less mastitis. Sows on Pads showed no broken or cracked feet, and no evidence of arthritis."

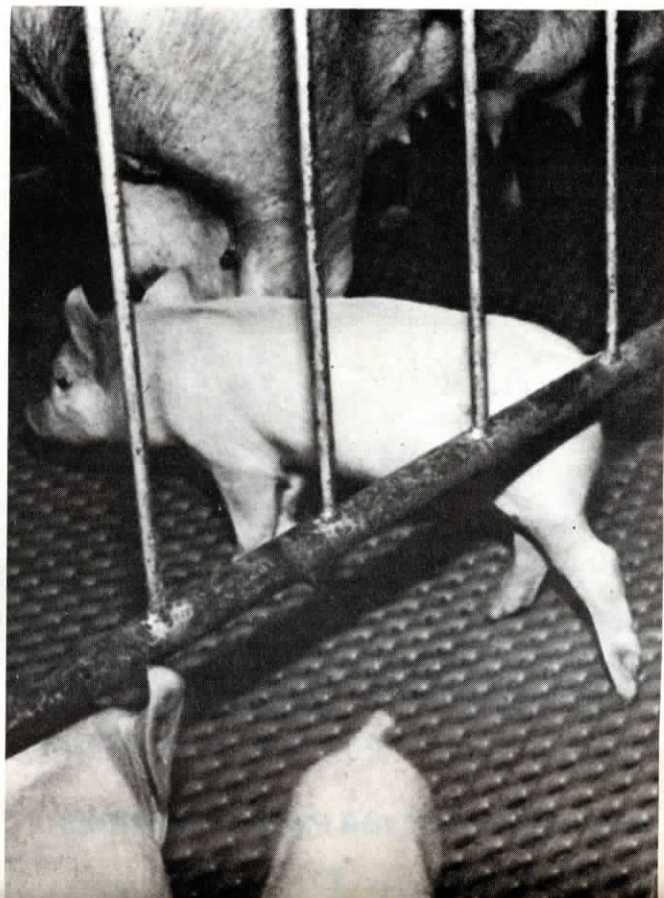
Tenderfoot Pads allow waste to pass through 3/8 in. opening (too small for a baby pig's foot to get

through) and are easy to clean, and resistant to acid, wear and chewing. "And, they're heavy and durable. Weight averages about 3.6 lbs. per sq. ft.," explains Nielsen. "Pads in use 18 months show no sign of wear. Users tell us the Pads pay for themselves after 4 to 6 litters."

An entire floor of Tenderfoot Pads can be laid down or removed in a matter of minutes. A supporting framework is required only every 12 to 18 in., depending on weight of the hogs.

While the Pads were designed for hogs, they also show promise for milking parlor floors, feeder operations, calves, poultry, horse trailers, stock trucks, cow stalls and as gutter covers. Standard Pad sizes are 3 ft. by 5 ft., 4 by 5, and 5 by 7. Other sizes available on request. Cost is approximately \$6.50 per sq. ft.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ADA Enterprises, Inc., Box 151, Freeborn, MN 56032 (ph 507 863-2461).



Little pigs get good footing on Tenderfoot pads which help reduce skin abrasions, bruises and spraddle legs. Strong steel mesh is coated with a plastisol compound.

"AN OLD IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME"

Insulation "Sandwiched" Between Concrete

Latest new concept in swine housing are precast, concrete panels with insulation "sandwiched" in between.

"It's actually an old idea whose time has come," says E. A. Olson, University of Nebraska agricultural engineer. He and his co-workers at the University, working in cooperation with several Nebraska concrete companies, developed the panels which consist of a 2 in. thick layer of polystyrene foam sandwiched between two layers of 2 in. thick concrete. A standard panel measures 4 by 8 ft. and weighs approximately 1,800 lbs.

The concrete panels are mass produced at an area concrete factory, then delivered to the building site where they're bolted together. A key advantage is that they require less labor than conventional construction.

According to the University of Nebraska, the concrete panels are "pig-proof" in that you can run confined pigs right up against them, and they won't rust, corrode or rot.

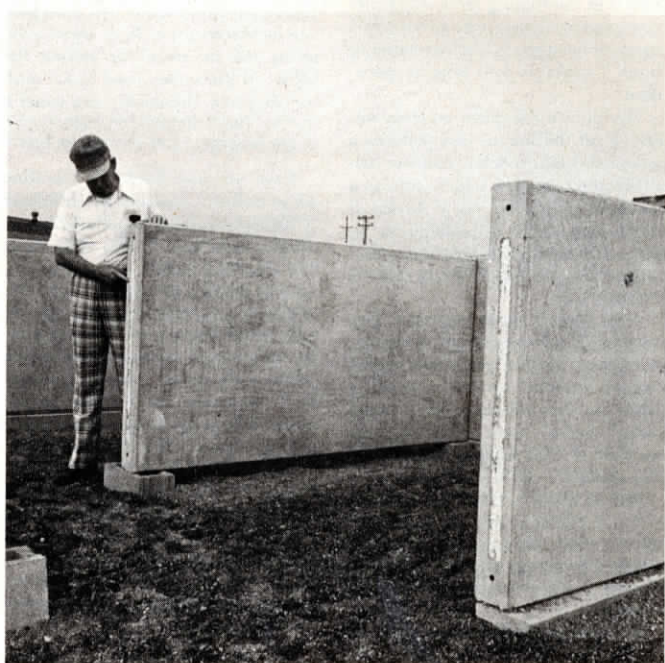
In addition, the precast concrete panels provide more insulation, having an R value of 10 — as compared to 5.8 for insulated concrete blocks, and

slightly over 1 when the centers are left empty. Also, the new panels are much more resistant to vapor movement.

The Nebraska cooperative extension service has developed plans for swine confinement units using precast concrete panels. Cost of the plans is \$3.00 for Plan 6061 (a tilt-up swine building) and \$2.00 for plans on open front hog houses.

"The panels are intended to be made at concrete ready mix plants and are provided with corner inserts for lifting onto trucks and also for setting on the foundation wall. At present, they are available from 7 places in Nebraska," explains Olson. "We have had a number of farmers build their own hog houses with insulated concrete tilt-up panels. However, since many prefer a packaged unit, the plans are an attempt to help fill this need. Costwise, the walls are competitive, if not less expensive, with other construction."

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, E. A. Olson, Dept. of Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Engineering Bldg., East Campus, Lincoln, NE. 68583 (ph 402 472-2824).



Precast concrete panels have a 2 in. thick layer of polystyrene foam insulation sandwiched between two layers of 2 in. thick concrete.