

Air Jet Cuts Pig Losses

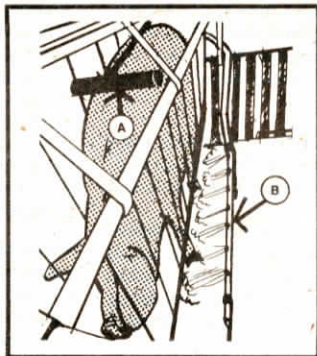
A European idea for reducing "lay on" pig losses has caught on in a modified form on a Kansas hog operation.

David Decker and his manager, Jake Peachy, who farm near Scott City, use air jets to move newly born pigs out from under sows during the days immediately after birth. Since installation of the air system, they've cut lay-on smothering losses by 90%.

"We used to lose about 1 pig per sow before the air system," Decker told FARM SHOW. The air system is triggered by actions of the sow. When she starts to lay down, an air valve is opened and tiny jet streams of air blow under the animal, driving the pigs away.

Decker and Peachy pressurize air to about 130 psi inside an old 250 gal. anhydrous ammonia tank. Air lines run from the tank to twelve air jet systems located throughout the farrowing building, which contains a total of 44 crates. The 12 air jet systems move easily from crate to crate as needed.

The system consists simply of an air valve that mounts at the end of the crate. A lever mounts out over the sows back and, as long as she remains standing, it holds the air valve closed. As the sow lays down, the valve opens and tiny streams of air pour out of pin-prick holes cut in a length of 3/4-in. dia. PVC pipe that runs alongside the crate. A regulator keeps the pressure in the lines at about 25 psi. When the sow stands up



When sow lays down, padded lever against back (A) moves downward, activating flow of air jets from small PVC pipe (B) alongside crate.

again, the air flow shuts off.

"We spent about \$600 on the entire system," says Decker, noting that in addition to the air system, he and Peachy also modified the crates and installed "brooder boxes" that have helped cut losses. "We narrowed the crates up from 24 to 18 in. and raised the sides so the sow has less room standing but more room — about 30 in. — when laying down. The brooder boxes are made out of plywood and contain a light-bulb and a heater pad, (used only during the first 30 hrs. after birth) that keep the boxes warm and attract the pigs when the air flow starts."

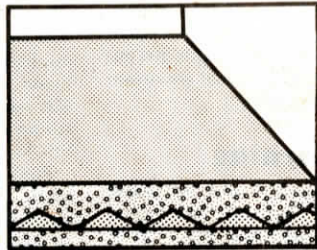
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Slick Way To Dry Up Wet Basements

"We dried up our basement by covering it up," says Leo Schempp, Hurley, S. Dak., who came up with a simple idea to get rid of his wet basement problem.

Schempp says he had a severe problem with water bubbling up across nearly the entire surface of the floor and running in tiny streams to a drain at one end of the basement. The problem got so bad no conventional solution could possibly help.

To solve it, he covered the wet floor with 1/2-in. steel corrugated roofing, laid in place so that all corrugations run toward the drain at one end of the basement. He simply cut around poles and other obstacles. Then he poured 4 in. of concrete over the top of the steel sheeting, covering the entire floor except for the last 4 ft. around the drain. All water runs down the channels under the concrete and out into the open where it then runs down the drain.



"I could have laid sheeting at the end perpendicular to the rest of the floor and channeled water all the way to the drain," says Schempp. Water continually runs down the drain but the new floor stays completely dry. He says that even if the steel sheeting under the floor should rust away, the water channels formed in the concrete would remain.

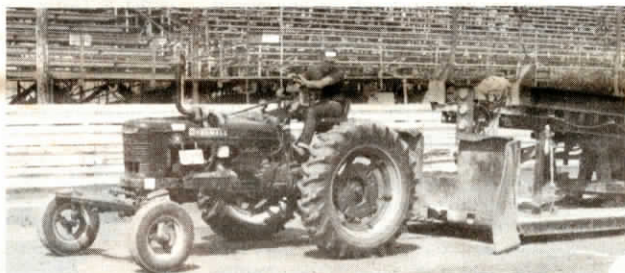
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Harold M. Johnson, Editorial Director



Turbocharged Farmall "H"

"It'll make a 5th gear start up a grade with a 9-ft. Haybine on the back," says Joe Moore, Lambertville, N.J., who installed a turbocharger on his 1948 Farmall "Super H" with 8.5:1.0 pistons and a 157 CID "Super H" kit.

The turbocharger is a "blow-through" model made by Airesearch Mfg. Co., that pressurizes the carburetor rather than sucks air through the carburetor. "I did it this way to provide a back up system so the operator could continue operation of the tractor in the field if the turbo ever failed," says Moore, who says he uses the tractor 80% of the time on his horse farm.

"This tractor is vital because it's so efficient in the field. I run 4 pounds boost pressure at 1,800 rpm's full load. It weighs 5,000 lbs. without water in the tires and puts out 48 hp. at 1800 rpm's at 3 psi. I also use a Holly fuel pump with fuel boost at 3 to 6 psi. You must keep the inlet

fuel pressure above the boost pressure of the turbocharger if you're using a blow-through system. If I were using a suck-through system with the carburetor ahead of the compressor inlet, then the fuel pressure could be reduced to 2 psi for 2 psi boost.

"The turbo gives a 40% boost in horsepower under load. I can tell because I also own another stock "H". The turbo H runs as smooth as glass at 190° water temperature under load.

"I pull a 9-ft. Haybine in 3rd or 4th gear and can also pull a New Holland 270 baler with a kicker and 17-ft. wagon with a 158-bale capacity."

Moore also installed a wide front end from a Farmall "M" for added stability. He converted the tractor for about \$1,000.

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