1-1-1960

Pig pox: its presence in W.A. is suspected but not yet confirmed

F C. Wilkinson

Follow this and additional works at: https://researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture4

Part of the Other Animal Sciences Commons, and the Veterinary Infectious Diseases Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture4/vol1/iss2/5

This article is brought to you for free and open access by Research Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 4 by an authorized administrator of Research Library. For more information, please contact jennifer.heathcote@agric.wa.gov.au, sandra.papenfus@agric.wa.gov.au, paul.orange@dpird.wa.gov.au.
F. C. WILKINSON, B.V.Sc., answers some questions concerning PIG-POX

Its presence in W.A. is suspected but not yet confirmed

A young pig showing scab formation resulting from pig-pox.

PIG-FARMER recently asked for information on pig-pox and inquired whether the disease occurs in Western Australia. The first part of the question is easily answered, as pig-pox is a typical pox disease caused by a virus and resulting in roundish, red areas appearing on the pig’s skin. The disease is in fact very similar to the other more commonly known pox diseases—chicken-pox in the human population, fowl-pox in poultry and cow-pox in cattle. The characteristic red patches which appear are followed by a scab formation with healing two or three weeks after the first signs of the disease have been seen.

As to the question, does the disease occur in pigs in Western Australia, this has not been confirmed. During the last 12 months, three properties have been visited where some of the pigs have shown typical symptoms of pig-pox, but laboratory attempts to prove the disease was pig-pox, by trying to artificially infect other pigs, were not successful.

The typical pig-pox seen in Australia is not a severe disease. It mainly affects young pigs from soon after birth until weaning, but occasionally cases are seen in older pigs, from weaner to baconer weight. The disease is spread from pig to pig in a herd by biting insects such as lice, mosquitoes and fleas. Several days after the insect has infected the pig, raised red areas develop on parts of the skin where it is thin and has little hair covering, that is along the belly, under the jaw and inside the legs. In bad cases the lesions extend up along the sides of the pig and the pig may be off food and feverish for one or two days.

The early reddening stage is followed by some weeping of the reddened areas and then the formation of a scab. This scab remains for about three weeks and then drops off, leaving the skin free of blemishes.

The disease can run quickly through all the young pigs in the piggery but it causes very little damage in well-cared-for pigs apart from a very slight check in growth rate. Death due to pig-pox is rare but if
other diseases such as paratyphoid or pig pneumonia occur at the same time, then death rates can be high.

Treatment is of little effect and is really a waste of time as healing of the pox sores cannot be hastened to any great extent. If left untreated the sores heal in about two or three weeks.

If the disease is seen in your pigs then you can try to prevent the spread of the disease by segregating the affected animals and treating all the pigs on the property to eradicate lice.

To summarise, pig-pox is a somewhat minor disease of pigs, which is thought to occur in pigs in Western Australia, but its presence has not been proved. The disease can easily be recognised by the owner who should not be unduly worried because if the affected pigs are kept well housed and fed, no deaths should occur and the setback to the pigs’ growth will be slight.

If any pig-owner living in or near Perth sees the disease in his pigs, it would be appreciated if he could inform the Veterinary Branch of the Department of Agriculture. We can then obtain some material which might help us to definitely establish that the disease is present in Western Australia.

---

**SHADE AND SHELTER**

The farm homestead where some of the natural trees have been preserved, or where introduced varieties have been planted according to a pre-conceived plan, has a much more attractive appearance than one which is sited on a bare, sunburnt, windswept spot affording little protection to either man or beast.

The man who owns stock should realise the value of shade and shelter. A rough, sandy patch covered with scrubby trees will often provide a greater return if left intact than it would if cleared and laid down to pasture.

So many of us too, are prone to follow the example handed down from early generations of selecting the top of the highest hill on the property on which to build. This was sound practice in the olden days when castles were elevated in order to gain knowledge of the approach of the enemy; but today, the greatest enemies of the stockowner are the cold wind and rain of winter and excessive heat in the summer. Therefore when clearing a new property and choosing a site for the house and farm buildings, advantage should be taken of existing shelter in the form of hills and standing timber, while providing also that the breezes of summer are not excluded.

Trees in the right places are valuable on a farm; they provide shade and shelter belts for stock and shelter for crops; on the windward side of open dams they considerably reduce evaporation; they prevent erosion on hillsides and river banks, and they enhance the appearance of the property, thereby increasing its value as a selling proposition.

Where a clean sweep has been made in the original clearing, replanting is necessary, and as the trees are required to provide shade in summer and windbreak in winter, evergreens are the most suitable.

---

**KEEP YOUR JOURNALS**

**HERE at the production end, we are sparing neither expense nor effort in making the “Journal of Agriculture” a publication which will help you in your farming operations.**

We suggest that the Journal is worth keeping and that a year’s issue will make an attractive and useful volume for your library—a volume that is full of sound factual information, attractively presented.

Arrangements have been made for the compilation of a comprehensive index to be incorporated in the December issue—a feature which will greatly enhance the value of the Journal as a work of reference.
Accurate levels
from 6 inches to 150 feet

There are no screws, spirit levels, or other troublesome adjustments to worry the user of a "Cowley" automatic level. The instrument automatically adjusts itself. Vibrations or bumps cannot upset your levels. So simple is it to use that it can be entrusted to unskilled workmen without impairing accuracy in results. When removed from the tripod the Cowley automatically locks itself, thereby reducing the possibility of damage to a minimum. The Cowley is the only level that will operate efficiently in any light.

**COWLEY AUTOMATIC LEVEL**

Write for free illustrated literature and prices from distributors

**McPherson's LTD.**

Suppliers to industry since 1860
532 MURRAY STREET, PERTH — PHONE 219711
OR OBTAINABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL STOREKEEPER

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture of W.A.," when writing to advertisers
POTASH is important to POTATOES!

Where Potash is concerned, the potato is a glutton. A 7-ton crop removes from the soil a quantity of potassium equivalent to 200 lb. Muriate of Potash.

It is essential to use a complete fertiliser containing phosphate, nitrogen, and potash to ensure a good crop without lowering the fertility of the soil. Potatoes grown on a soil well supplied with Potash (and other plant foods) are superior in keeping quality, cooking quality, texture, and flavour.

Consult your local Departmental officer, or write for further information to—

POTASH (Australasia) PTY. LIMITED, Box 3843, G.P.O., SYDNEY

WHEN YOU NEED WATER

choose a FLOODMASTER pump

George Moss Pty Ltd

Phone 82371 G.P.O. Box R1288, PERTH.
Office and Works—10 WOOLWICH ST, LEEDE RVILLE.

Pump close coupled to 4 stroke petrol engine. Capacities: 11 in. 4,000, 2 in. 7,000 gallons per hour. Self priming, it operates as soon as the engine is started.

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture of W.A." when writing to advertisers