What is the difference?

F C. Wilkinson

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WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

ANSWER

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
<th>WORMS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 weeks</td>
<td>90 lb.</td>
<td>50 lb.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 weeks</td>
<td>120 lb.</td>
<td>5 lb.</td>
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DIFERENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
<th>WORMS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 weeks</td>
<td>30 lb.</td>
<td>45 lb.</td>
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History

THE owner of these pigs had been disappointed with growth rates in his pigs. He had started with four virus-pneumonia free sows and the first litters produced had grown to bacon weight in just over five months. Later litters had started well and while some continued to thrive others grew slowly and took up to seven months to reach bacon weights.

Investigation

The farmer contacted his local veterinary officer who said that next time he was out that way he would look in. He added that an inspection of the herd was due under the virus-pneumonia accreditation scheme.

Naturally the vet's first question was "Any coughing in the young pigs?". The owner hesitated a little as if doubtful, then admitted "Yes. They do cough occasionally, but it's only usually noticeable for a week."

"Things look a bit crowded" remarked the veterinarian as he waded through a pool of mud in an attempt to stir up a litter of six week old pigs.

The owner admitted that there were too many pigs for the yards but the trouble he explained was the length of time it took to reach bacon weight.

The veterinarian could not discern any coughing in any of the pigs and he suggested examining the ration. A quick calculation revealed that the diet was mainly second grade cracked grain, about 10 per cent. protein supplement, plus a vitamin A supplement fed at irregular intervals. The vet concluded "The ration
looks reasonable. Do you feed any mineral supplement?” The owner looked slightly guilty, then admitted “Well, yes. A salesman had a look at my pigs about a month ago, and left two bags of a special mineral supplement which I have been using, but I can’t honestly see any improved growth rate.”

“How about worms” asked the vet. The owner explained that each litter at weaning was treated by mixing a piperazine powder in the self feeders.

The veterinarian then suggested that if a litter of seven pigs consisting of three good doers of bacon weight and four rather poorer pigs could be sent to slaughter, he would arrange for an inspection of the lungs and the rest of the carcasses for signs of disease.

**Diagnosis**

The report received by the veterinarian read:

Examination of seven lungs revealed no visible lesions of virus pneumonia. The livers of all pigs showed multiple white spots and all were condemned as being unsuitable for human consumption. Examination of the intestines revealed one pig with 50 worms, three pigs with 15 to 20 worms and three pigs with one or two worms.

**Report to farmer**

The veterinarian rang the farmer and told him his pigs were still virus-pneumonia free, and that the cause of the problem was worm parasites.

The larvae of the worms, he explained, were damaging the liver and lungs and were probably the direct cause of the coughing. He considered that the overcrowded conditions had allowed the rapid build-up of worms.

He also considered the method of treatment was ineffective, and that some of the pigs were not consuming enough piperazine worm powder at one meal to rid them of their worm burden. The worms left were obviously causing the slow growth rates.

The vet stressed the need to farrow piglets into a clean environment and when using piperazine for de-worming to ensure that each pig obtained a sufficient dose at a single feed.

**Action taken**

All pigs on the property were dewormed the next day using the worm powder mixed in a small quantity of feed. The results were spectacular. Next day, hundreds of white worms up to 6 in. long were to be seen in the dunging areas.

The procedure now adopted on this property to control worms is:

- All sows dewormed two weeks before farrowing
- Farrowing in well-cleaned pens
- All piglets dewormed at six weeks of age (weaning)
- Each litter weaned into a paddock in which there has been no pigs for three months.

**Results**

Litter size now is very even and coughing completely absent. The last three litters all averaged 175 lb. at 20 weeks of age.

—F. C. WILKINSON

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**1967 BACONER CARCASE COMPETITION**

The West Australian Branch of the Australian Pig Society will again hold a baconer carcase competition this year. This is the 20th year of the competition.

A display of the carcases will be held at the W.A. Meat Export Works, Robb Jetty, on Thursday, September 28, 1967. Cuts from all judged entries will be on show from 2 p.m. and prizes will be presented at 2.30 p.m. All interested are invited to attend the display function.

Further details are available from the office of the Australian Pig Society, c/- The Royal Agricultural Society, 239 Adelaide Terrace, Box W 2025, G.P.O., Perth, Telephone 23 2951, or the State Representative, Australian Meat Board, 194 St. George’s Terrace, Perth, Telephone 21 9055, or Department of Agriculture, Jarrah Road, South Perth, Telephone 67 1841.
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*Sold under Aust. pat. 159879

Sickle Plus 5
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