

Let's discuss some of the requirements of a program to prevent introduction of diseases into your herd or onto your premises:

1) *Know where your replacements come from.* Purchase only from sources known to be reliable and having a low disease history. Do not patronize sales, auctions, etc., unless you are willing to assume the risks involved.

2) *Examine stock at the seller's farm.* If possible use a veterinarian to advise you. This should include blood tests for brucellosis and leptospirosis. Results of the exam should be in your hands before moving animals.

3) *Isolate new acquisitions at your farm.* The isolation period should be at least 21 days, and preferably 30 days. During this time the animals should be under the observation of a competent veterinarian.

4) *Several states now have Swine Health Certification programs.* In these programs, breeding herds are given periodic examinations and certified free of certain diseases.

5) *Determine whether new stock has been vaccinated for such diseases as hog cholera and swine erysipelas.* If hogs have not been vaccinated for hog cholera give them hog cholera serum before transporting to your farm, then if normal at end of 2 weeks isolation, vaccinate them using attenuated virus and serum. If you do not vaccinate for cholera, give all purchased pigs a large dose of hog cholera serum before bringing them to your farm in addition to the isolation period of 30-60 days.

6) *If atrophic rhinitis and virus pig pneumonia are problems consider repopulation with SPF pigs.*

7) *You, your help, and visitors all can spread disease on your farm.* Do not permit visitors in your farrowing houses, etc. Foot baths, etc., are of little value in prevention of disease in my opinion and only give the farmer a false sense of security. Adopt a work program as follows: Feed and care for young animals first, secondly the breeding animals, thirdly the feeder stock, and lastly the new acquisitions in isolation.

8) *When animals are moved on the farm, haul them, do not drive them.* Try to avoid driving through pastures or pens in which other animals are kept. This avoids spread of disease and internal parasites.

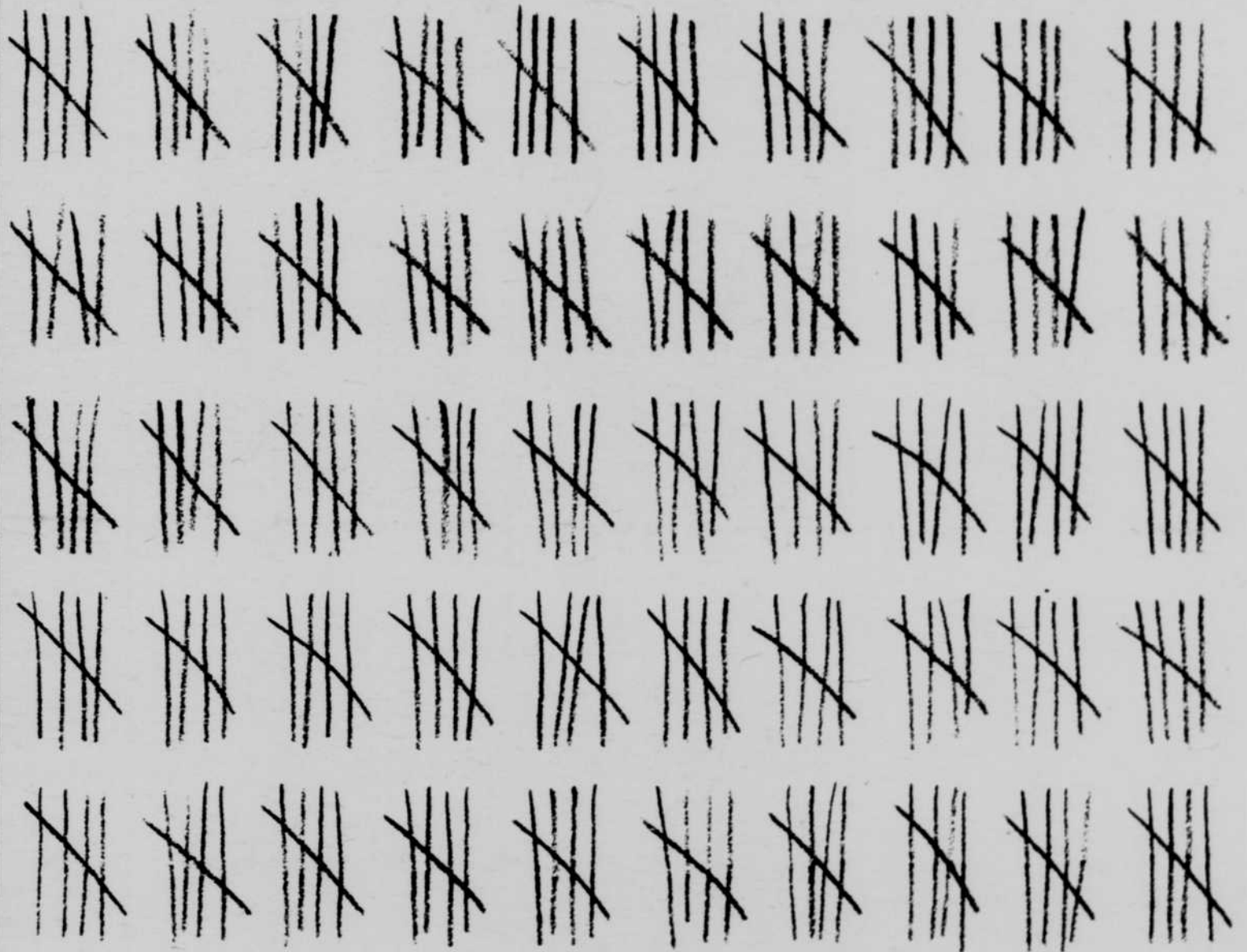
9) *Good equipment kept clean will help in the problem.* This is especially true in the farrowing house. Farrowing equipment should not be used for other purposes and should be thoroughly cleaned before use (steam cleaning and strong disinfectants recommended). Sows should be washed with soapy water if weather permits, otherwise brush them well using a dry disinfectant non-toxic to them. Pens should be cleaned daily or else slatted floors, etc., should be used. Proper manure disposal regardless of method of housing is a must. Baby pigs must be kept warm and dry.

10) *Care for newborn pigs properly.* Dip each pig's navel in a disinfectant as soon after birth as possible (7% iodine solution is still a good one!). If necessary, tie off and clip navel cord, but this is not usually necessary unless it is extremely long. Clip "needle teeth" immediately. At about 3-10 days, depending upon product used, use an injection of iron-dextran compound to prevent baby pig anemia. Usually one injection is enough, but if pigs are going to stay on concrete it may be necessary to give another injection later. At about 4 weeks of age all male pigs should be castrated. An identification system such as ear notching will help you to make a record of performance of your herd and will pinpoint animals not of good breeding or those which may be more susceptible to disease, etc., than others within your herd. Merely keeping records is not enough, one must study them and then make proper use of them! Young animals should be vaccinated for hog cholera 10 days to 2 weeks before weaning (if weaning at 5-6 weeks of age). Erysipelas vaccination should be done according to recommendations of the veterinarian and the type of vaccine being used.



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