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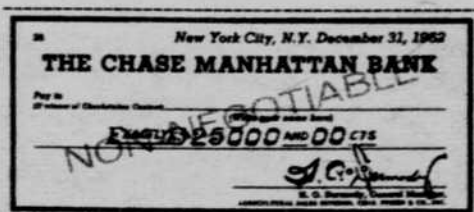
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After carefully studying the twelve points of Dr. Morrison's "Swine Health Program in a Nutshell", one of Wisconsin's better hog farmers remarked, "I agree with Dr. Morrison 100 percent . . . except in one area."

These were the words of Mr. Don Prill, farm manager of Dr. W. E. Brown's 500-acre farm just west of Waukesha, Wisconsin.

The farm represents the kind of place that most people in the area sort of dream of. On it, you'll find about every type of soil imaginable. This is because the terrain has its ups and downs, its hills and valleys. Everything about it, including Prill's commercial hogs, seems to blend into the countryside . . . the natural beauty of the kettle moraine country.

Don Prill is an agricultural graduate from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He farms with skill, enthusiasm and imagination. He does every practical thing within his power to keep his hogs healthy. He knows how many live hogs it takes to pay for every dead one. Perhaps this is why he agrees 100 percent (almost) with Dr. Morrison.

Maybe we ought to explain his one small area of partial disagreement. It has to do with item number six of Morrison's article. Prill believes that Specific Pathogen Free hogs would be fine if it were possible to run an operation that would keep them that way. But, he feels that in perhaps the second or third litter, a lack of natural immunity is liable to catch up with the pigs. He added that, in fairness to Dr. Morrison, it should be pointed out that he (Morrison) didn't recommend them across the board. Only if a specific health problem or two is prevalent on a farm.

One of Prill's friends is just getting started in a SPF hog operation. Don intends to just sit back and watch. He said, "I may have to eat my words, we'll see."

MARKETS 600

The progressive young farmer, who has managed the Brown farm for several years, raises all his own pigs. He has been marketing around 600 hogs a year and selling a few feeder pigs now and then, as well. The hogs are a nice long, lean three way combination Landrace, Poland China and Hamp. Good commercial conformation; the type that does well when marketed on a grade and yield plan.

Prill looked back at Dr. Morrison's item number six, shook his head as he recalled a costly spring experience, and told of his recent bout with baby pig pneumonia.

"It was probably my own fault, too," he partially admitted. "We had 31 sows farrow during the month of March," he went on. "Needless to say, we had far too many baby pigs for the size of the barn."

To make a long story short, overcrowding, high humidity, grouping the baby pigs too soon to make room for other farrowing sows plus a few other reasons, led to a 20 percent pig loss due to pneumonia.

CALLS THE DOCTOR

Prill told of another health problem he had on the place that seems to have been corrected now. Baby pig scours. He and farm owner, Dr. Brown, M.D., got their heads together and apparently came up with something that worked. Don had long believed that the organism that actually caused scours did its dirty work only after the baby pigs had been weakened by an irregular or spasmodic flow of the sow's milk. Working on this theory, Dr. Brown prescribed 10 to 20 cc's of calcium glutinate per sow to stimulate the flow of milk by merely relaxing the muscles.

Referring to Morrison's item number ten, Prill remarked, "These things are most important, too. Farrowing sows should be watched carefully and the baby pigs cared for quickly."

He said they always clip the needle teeth, disinfect the navel in an iodine solution, tie and clip off navel cords when necessary and give each an iron shot. They also try to castrate at 10 days of age to minimize shock.

LITTERS GET TOO BIG

What about the size of the litters? Don says they have had many litters of from 15 to 20 pigs. He doesn't like big litters like this at all. The pigs are uneven. Some weigh a pound; some five pounds. The small ones just can't compete like they should for their dinner and you are always faced with the decision of letting them die or try to wet-nurse them. In litters this large you get far too many small pigs to suit Don Prill. He'd rather have 10 to 12 pig litters of uniform size.

Morrison's point number twelve was then referred to. Our hog raising specialist says we can't emphasize too strongly the necessity of controlling parasites. He said mange and lice are so prevalent on so many farms that quite often they are never treated for. He says he knows for a fact that either or both can slow down gains considerably.