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Progress Report

Farm Structures

Major emphasis was given to planning, studying, and development of swine and poultry housing systems; waste management; and educational material for use by Extension agents and the consuming public.

Swine Housing

Housing systems being studied and recommended are well received by swine producers as evidenced by the many construction starts.

Work with precast concrete slat suppliers resulted in the development and availability of gang slats. The units are placed on the foundation by the supplier and thus eliminates installation labor and costs by the producer.

Building plans and other printed material enable the producer to either build his own or contract the construction. Certainly, educational material of this type is invaluable to the swine housing program and is effective in motivating potential users.

Poultry Housing

Even though new construction has been limited, interest runs high in poultry housing. Emphasis in the industry has been placed on better insulation and ventilation of existing houses.

The Poultry Housing Environmental Seminar seemingly has become an annual affair through industry support by attendance and participation. Liaison with research personnel strengthens the educational programs. Studies indicate improved housing will

result in more efficient bird performance and fuel savings, factors significant to every poultryman.

Waste Management

Waste management cannot be separated from livestock and poultry housing. Efforts in this area have been well received by producers, and the educational material prepared for extension agents and the consuming public has enabled them to cope with this serious, but in some instances, emotional challenge. An attitude of compliance or control has resulted from an effort to educate not only producers, but other state and federal agencies. Of significance is the fact that the Farmers Home Administration now requires a statement to the effect that an acceptable waste management system is integrated into a livestock or poultry enterprise before the loan can be approved.

Miscellaneous

Through the Plans Service, many other consumer needs are met from rabbit cages to home freezers. This service provides a communications link that could not be established otherwise.