

Hogs With PSE Lower Profits

Watch out for hogs with PSE — they give meat that lacks consumer appeal and reduces pork sales.

PSE, says Mr. A. J. Bunn, Swine Specialist, Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, is the abbreviation given to pork that is gray in color (Pale), lacks firmness (Soft), and contains considerable moisture (Exudative or watery).

Most researchers, says Mr. Bunn, believe PSE is caused by stress. Stress can produce high muscle temperature at slaughter time and give high muscle-acid content. The formation of acid in the muscle results from a rapid breakdown of muscle strength (glycogen). These factors all contribute to PSE.

Some Ontario packers indicate 10 percent more of the hogs slaughtered have PSE. These hogs may have a three to five percent greater carcass shrink than normal hogs. This means a paying price loss for hogs and is bad for Ontario's swine industry.

PSE is hard to detect. Hogs may be morbid and drowsy, may puff and pant, and have very high body temperatures. Well muscled, squatty meat hogs seem more susceptible to the condition. Selection programs geared to producing lean, larger framed hogs that suffer less from PSE appear to be the main way to eliminate the problem.

Some facts to note about PSE are:

1. Their heritability factor is small (about 20 percent).
2. Hogs slaughtered in warm weather suffer more than those killed in winter months — probably due to the stress effect of heat.
3. Stress through transportation and handling prior to slaughter can increase PSE. Resting pigs immediately before the kill can reduce this.
4. Restricted feeding, over the entire feeding period or for a few weeks before slaughter, harms meat quality. Pigs



Tomatoes in cleaning hopper at Innes Foods Ltd., Port Rowan. (Staff Photo)

susceptible to PSE may also require more vitamin E and selenium, both of which improve pork color. Most PSE studies have been carried out on purebreds, says Mr. Bunn. Now that

more market hogs are crossbreds, further research is required to determine if crossbreeding affects PSE. Better methods of detecting stress and potential PSE in hogs must also be devised.

Tractor Noise Levels Can Injure Operators

Research into noise pollution shows that it can injure the farmer operating his engine-driven machinery. To avoid the problem, the farmer should consider noise levels when he purchases farm equipment. The purchase of a tractor cab to reduce noise may be one solution.

Research indicates, however, that appreciably higher noise levels are recorded in tractor cabs than on tractors without cabs, says Professor Peter Southwell, School of Engineering, University of Guelph. Cab noise is produced by vibration instead of the exhaust and engine noise of an open tractor.

Mr. Southwell says there are three solutions to the noise problems on tractors: — The reduction of engine speed and thus of

noise.

— Better construction to prevent excessive vibration.

— The wearing of helmets by operators to protect them from head injury, dust and noise.

As a temporary measure, Mr. Southwell suggests operators use soundproof ear muffs.

Mr. Southwell says the public equates noise with power and engine-driven vehicles, and suggests a public education program to dispel this myth.

TRUDEAU TO RUSSIA
OTTAWA (CP) — Prime Minister Trudeau announced last week that he and Mrs. Trudeau will visit Russia May 17-27.

The prime minister will fall but the trip was postponed because of the terrorist crisis in Quebec.

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Honey is at the ultimate in natural sweeteners as is: as a spread

for bread or muffins, drizzled over hot waffles and pancakes, or poured over fried chicken.

Mandarin Pork Chops

Mandarin Pork Chops:— Place 4 or 5 one-inch thick loin pork chops in a pan; season. Bake in preheated 450 degrees oven for 30 minutes or until browned. Lower temperature to 350 degrees. Drain a 10-ounce can of mandarin orange sections and combine syrup with 1 tablespoon each of brown sugar and soy sauce; pour over chops and cover pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. Uncover pan and top chops with drained mandarins and ½ cup slivered almonds. Bake for another 14 minutes or until done, basting occasionally.



Rolf Laupert, supervisor in charge at the St. Williams Forestry Station. (Staff Photo)

ZESTY BAKED CHOPS

Zesty Baked Chops:— Select 4 or 5 loin pork chops that are about 1-inch thick and place in a baking pan. Season

chops with salt and pepper and top each with an onion slice. Combine ¼ cup brown

sugar, 1/3 cup catsup and 2 tablespoons water; pour over chops. Cover and bake in preheated 350 degree oven

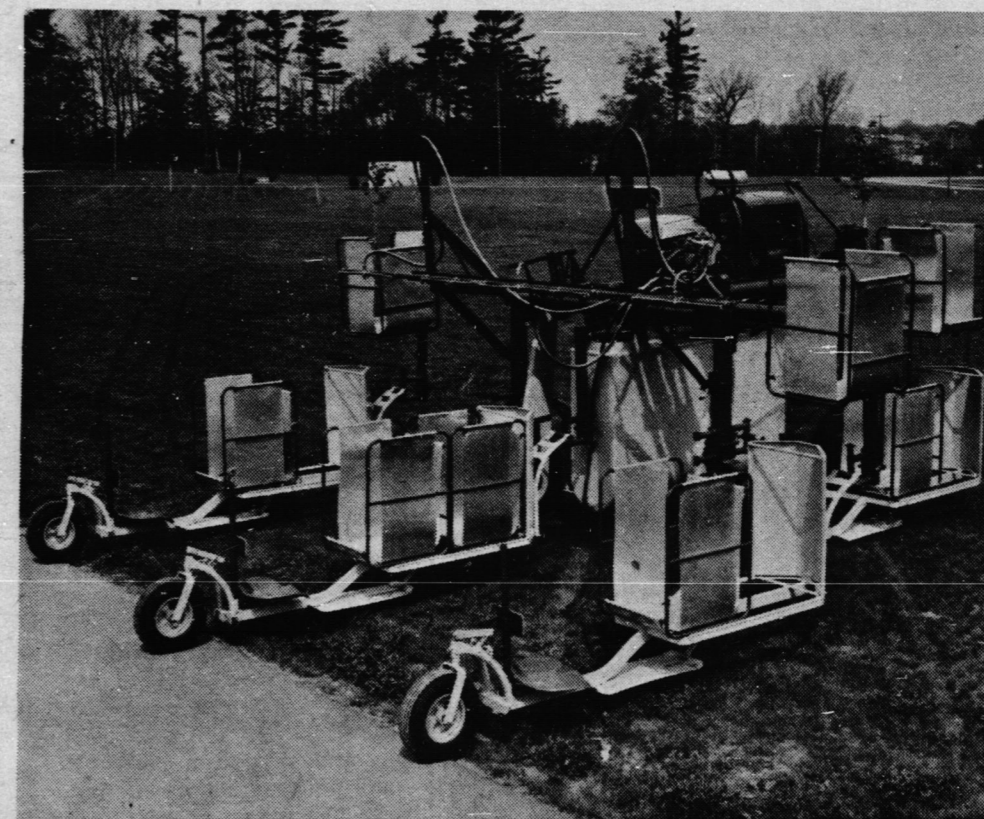
for 1 hour then uncover and bake for another 15 minutes or until done, basting occasionally.

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