
Book Reviews

Devendra, C.; Fuller, M.F.: Pig Production in the Tropics.

Oxford: Oxford University Press 1979. 172 pp., 22 figs., 23 tabs. Hard bound £ 8.50

Swine breeding is very important for the development of national economies and for improvement of the nutrition of people living in many of the developing countries in tropical areas. However, there are very few books discussing the development of this field under extreme tropical conditions, although it is swine that yield the bulk of animal proteins in the food of the populations of South East Asia, Africa, Central and South America, the Islands of the Caribbean Sea and other tropical regions. This book by C. Devendra and M.F. Fuller, who have experience in working with pigs in the tropics, contains both valuable information on main theoretical principles and practical advice on swine breeding in this extreme zone. Of special value are the chapters containing descriptions of aboriginal breeds in different tropical countries and the experience of breeding European races, which are more productive but less adapted to tropical conditions. This material provides guidelines in the choice of suitable breeds and for better organization of their improvement. Of no less value are the chapters dealing with the maintenance of pigs of different age groups in buildings, providing economic control of microclimatic conditions. The specialists who realize the difficulties will appreciate the theoretical and practical data on the regulation of body temperature and protection of piglets from overheating in humid and arid tropics. Two long chapters are dedicated to the peculiarities of food and water supply for pregnant and lactating mothers, and other sex and age

groups, in the tropics. They also make some recommendations for the composition of rations, not only of well studied fodder as maize, barley, soy bean and wheat, but also of zone-specific fodder: rice, sorgo, cassava, sweet potatoes, sago, yams and bananas. The book contains excellent tables for calculating rations balanced for protein, vitamins and minerals and this is important. In addition to the traditional sources of animal and plant proteins the possibilities of using palm kernel, copra, ground nut, cotton seeds, different kinds of pea, sesame, and rubber seeds are considered.

The conditions of dosed feeding which will provide for the yield of products of high quality and good taste are discussed. Here, as in the other parts of the book, the authors stress the economy: cheapfodder – which does not make the pig a competitor of man for sources of food. This is a great advantage in a book destined for economically underdeveloped regions poor in food resources. Important material is contained in the chapter dealing with the struggle against infectious and non-infectious diseases of pigs, including helminthic and cutaneous parasites, and diseases specific for the tropics.

The book is written in a clear concise language, has a distinct rubrication and is supplied with a Glossary, a good Index, and very informative Figures and photos. It is an excellent handbook on tropical swine breeding, not only for students of agricultural colleges and a wide circle of farmers engaging in swine breeding, but also for many other persons who need to know this branch of animal husbandry in developing countries of the tropical zone.

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