

# Now Pigs Wallow In Luxury Instead Of Traditional Mud

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RALEIGH, N.C.—(NEA) — The pig, a noble meat producer, is beginning to live these days in air-cooled concrete luxury with all manner of self-service and automatic gadgets at his command. Increasingly the feeder-size pigs are moving into places of porcine magnificence, or swank which are described as "Pig Parlors," "Hog Palaces," "Swine Salons," and "Pig Cafeterias."

No more wallowing in the mud. In fact, pigs would probably never

throughout the Southern states, where pigs can get mighty hot and an awful lot of water, and all he has to do is to go to the "Pig Bar," something like a water fountain. This he quickly learns to operate by poking his nose against the right spot.

Not all pigs, by any means, have reached this state of affluence. But a lot of them are, and it begins to look as though the pig will soon be taken out of the underprivileged class of the barnyard kingdom.

The idea of these relatively low-

The United States at last count had a pig population of around 35 million. Pigs, however, aren't native to the continent; perhaps

the first ones to reach here landed with DeSoto in Florida in 1539. Nowhere else than America,

however, is the pig apparently climbing toward so high a standard of living. It's because research has demonstrated that with modern feeds, management and sanitation, hogs can be made to grow faster on concrete than on pasture.

## MINERAL ON THE ROCKS PLEASE



wallow in the mud anyway, if they had any other way to keep cool on hot days. Pigs have no sweat glands, and that's why they crave cool comfort.

The more fortunate pigs stay delightfully cool now on the hottest of mid-summer days, sprayed constantly by a cool mist from overhead. Minerals? They get them right out of a mineral box, a self-service gadget which a pig, with his natural curiosity, learns to operate right off. There's no more rooting in the ground for them.

His regular food comes to him in the same manner, cafeteria style, at any time he feels the urge. The concrete floor of his domicile is kept clean by the frequent use of a hose. A pig drinks

cost porcine housing developments is spreading rapidly, particularly in summer, so hot, in fact, they won't eat except early in the day and after sunset.

Basically, these housing developments for pigs amount to raising hogs in confinement on concrete so that highly developed feeding techniques and labor-saving devices and gadgets can be easily used.

It's simply a matter of outlay and profit, a matter of introducing good management methods and of raising pigs somewhat along the assembly-line basis.

"We've poured more concrete in 1957 than in the preceding 57 years," is the way the situation in North Carolina is summed up by J. K. Butler Jr., animal husbandry extension specialist at North Carolina State College. And the extension specialists in most other Southern states describe the same sort of trend. The saving on outlay for hand labor alone often pays for the new pig establishments within a year.

Feeder pigs are put into the "parlor" or "salon" when they reach a weight of 60 to 80 pounds. They never leave until they reach market weight—say, 180 to 240 pounds. The idea is to make it possible to bring feeder pigs to market weight every 90 days—which means year-round output or production.

A popular type of one of these swine quarters, which takes care of 50 pigs at a time, costs about \$400 for materials and equipment, and is intended for summer feeding or year-round use in warm climates. The materials for winterizing a pig parlor of this type cost about \$125.

Sometimes these new-type pig establishments may be barns or other farm buildings converted to "confined rearing" of pigs on concrete. There have also been conversions of new broiler houses into a "parlor house," which is a project larger in size than the usual concept of a shed-type of "pig parlor."



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