

Yankton Press and Dakotan

"South Dakota's First Newspaper"

YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2, 1973

Yankton Farmer is Honored As Master Pork Producer

SIoux FALLS S.D. -- "There are still some good opportunities for young men to get into farming," says Pat Lyons, 43, Yankton, who has been chosen one of the five commercial Master Pork Producers for 1972, according to R. B. Kelton, Salem, chairman of the committee.

Winners of the 1972 awards were to receive plaques during a formal recognition banquet in Sioux Falls today. In addition, each will receive an expense-paid trip for two to the 1973 National Barrow Show at Austin, Minnesota.

Honorees are selected on the basis of how well they run a profitable swine enterprise, their knowledge of the pork industry and the general management of their swine operation.

The S.D. Master Pork Producers' recognition program is sponsored by the S.D. Livestock Expansion Foundation, S.D. Extension Service, and the S.D. Association of Vocational Instructors. There are also 28, closely allied contributing sponsors, including markets, feed companies, packers, equipment companies, radio stations, bankers, credit agencies and swine groups.

Lyons has been raising hogs for nearly 15 years. He farrows out 180 litters a year from his 120 crossbred sows in a recently constructed 24 x 152 foot farrowing house. The building erected in 1970, utilizes concrete slats under the entire building. Pat did the work himself with the help of some local carpenters. He had 32 crates set up in the building and makes use of infrared gas heaters to maintain a constant temperature throughout the house.

He gives iron shots and clips teeth and tails within a few days after birth and castrates when pigs are about three weeks old. He tries to wean them when they are five to six weeks of age. He puts them in his slotted-floor nursery until they reach 60 to 80 pounds. At this time, he feeds an 18% protein grower.

The hogs are then moved to the 28 x 160 foot finishing unit, another building, which Pat completed in 1971. The building is a modified open front structure, complete with a partially slotted floor. The entire unit has automatically controlled feeders and water systems and has open ridge ventilation through the peak of the roof and is, of course, completely insulated.

Pat puts 35 hogs in each of the 20, 8 x 24 foot pens, but then reduces the number to 25 as they mature. He

grinds and mixes up all of the feed on the farm, using home-grown feeds. He mixes a 12 to 15% ration as the hogs reach their selling weight between 225 and 235 pounds. His finishing house has a 600-pig capacity.

Lyons purchases his breeding stock and obtains SPF Yorkshire and Duroc boars. He likes to keep a sow around for 6 to 7 farrowings.

Sows are placed in self feeders during the breeding period for flushing. Once they are bred though, he goes to a limit feeding program and feeds six pounds of silage, one pound of supplement and one pound of rolled corn. To save time and labor, he utilizes fence line bunks and bunk feeder wagon.

All the sows are vaccinated for triple leptospirosis and erysipelas as well as given an anti-scour vaccine six and three weeks before farrowings.



Pat & Pearl Lyons Family Farm

Lyons believes that the money he spent on facilities for his hogs is paying off, but adds, "There are many techniques that one must learn." He said, for one, you have to take greater care in checking animals in confinement housing than you did out in the yard."

Pat and his wife, Pearl, own and rent 700 acres of land in the Yankton area, raising corn, soybeans and alfalfa. They have six daughters: Susan, a freshman at South Dakota State University; Linda, a junior in high school; Barbara, a freshman; Catherine, 13; Mary, 12; and Carol, 9.

Pat served in the Army in Korea and attended Yankton College before returning to the farm. He is past district supervisor of the Yankton County Conservation District and is chairman of the Yankton County South Dakota Pork Council.