

ABSTRACT

Twenty-two weaner producing units in St. George and Caroni counties in North Trinidad provided the data on which this survey is based.

Though not a true random sample these farmers present a fair cross section of pig breeding methods used in the area.

Information was gathered by means of schedules compiled on the farms through direct observation and in consultation with the farmer.

Some sixty specific points were examined covering the major technical aspects of pig weaner production.

The survey provides general information on the farmers, their holdings and the numbers and types of stock comprising the units.

Breeding policy, management methods, feeding systems, health, piglet mortality and buildings were examined.

Sow and litter records and mean piglet weights at various ages up to weaning were collected.

The findings were tabulated and are discussed in the report, with reference to appropriate literature.

The main points emerging from this examination were that: (i) numbers born and reared compared well with average results in temperate countries; (ii) that piglet mortality was on average surprisingly low; (iii) that rates of gain and piglet weights to three weeks and weaning were well below temperate standards.

The factors affecting these results are discussed.

It is concluded that though the improvement of breeding stock has received much deserved attention from both Government and breeders, action is now required to improve environment and techniques in order to make full use of this improved stock.