

It's The Pits!!!!

Lots of pigs were raised at 455 West Florence Road. They came into this world in the farrowing house (built in the 60s)



Then they spent their “childhood” in the nursery house (built in 1973 and called the “Orange House” because it sported bright orange paint).

The picture below was taken on a gloppy, muddy, summer day. The small building was the “Orange House” after it was painted white....go, figure!



From there they were moved to the finishing house (built in the 60s) until they weighed about 220 pounds and were sold.



Below is an aerial view of the hog buildings from the west. The long building on the left is the finishing house. The long building in the center is the farrowing house. The little building just south of the farrowing house is the nursery (Orange House).



OK, let's straggle back to the story now...In order to eliminate porcine excretory exhaust (oh, you figure out for yourself what that term means!), it was scraped daily from the south end of the building into a trench. This was not satisfactory so in about 1975 we enclosed the feeding floor and installed a manure pit just south of the finishing house. A major hitch came in 1990 when a good bit of rain saturated the ground and the south wall of the pit collapsed. The whole pit was full of its usual contents plus water, broken cement, and twisted lumber. What a nightmare!

Jeff Slick did the repair work and the pictures below show the building process.



Before the new roof was built over it, we had yet another gully-washer and the pit was almost filled with run-off water.



That pit held many gallons of smelly liquid and it was pumped out by a Honey Wagon; the brown

gold was then spread on the fields for fertilizer.



One day I spotted a stray animal coming down the driveway. It was our white cat Lucy who had fallen into the pit and had managed to swim to safety. It took a whole lot of soap and water to restore Lucy to her original color again...and she certainly was NOT exactly in a cooperative mood at that point.

I left the farm August 1, 1998 and the property was sold several years later. No pigs are in any of the buildings now. That pit no longer is full of excretory exhaust. It may even have collapsed inwardly.

No matter....it was a major improvement when it was being utilized in the "oinker-raising process". Also, without it, you would not have been hooked into reading this. Doesn't that just **FLOAT YOUR BOAT?**