SESSION IV  Databases

Info Svin - an information system on cd-rom

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Keywords: databases, pigs, pig production, information systems, Info Svin

Abstract

The first version of the database Info Svin on cd-rom was introduced in Denmark in June 1996 to pig producers, advisors, veterinarians, agricultural colleagues, feed and equipment manufacturers, etc. In Info Svin a search of a few seconds allows one to search through all Danish knowledge from the past 20 years of research - corresponding to information standing on shelves 4 m long or 208 Mb.

Introduction

For the past many years, all specialist information has been communicated on paper inserted by the recipient in some sort of filing system. Nevertheless, the information may be difficult to retrieve. Often the problem is not lack of knowledge, but more a matter of our ability to systematise and exploit the knowledge described already once. We often see in the National Committee for Pig Breeding, Health and Production that advisers and others call to ask for information in a field communicated via normal written channels shortly before. The advisers just cannot find the information when needed.

Today, a computer is a daily tool used by many to solve a multitude of tasks. The generation now entering the labour market is familiar with computers, and therefore the coming years will see a landslide in the use of and demand for software and technology capable of solving new and complicated tasks.

The first version of the database Info Svin on cd-rom was introduced in Denmark in June 1996 to pig producers, advisors, veterinarians, agricultural colleagues, feed and equipment manufacturers, etc. Info Svin is a very user-friendly database, and it will ensure that the individual pig producer quickly can put new research in combination with old knowledge into use.

Danish pig producers have spent a lot of money on research and development, and the knowledge acquired has been hidden in many articles and reports. In Info Svin a search of a few seconds allows one to search through all Danish knowledge from the past 20 years of research - corresponding to information standing on shelves 4 m long or 208 Mb.
Info Svin was presented as a European novelty at the Danish Agromek fair at Herning in 1996 where it was awarded the Danpig prize. The awarding committee especially stressed the fact that this European novelty is an ambitious and extremely user-friendly offer expected to achieve wide distribution among pig producers.

The development of Info Svin has been financed by The National Committee for Pig Breeding, Health and Production under The Federation of Danish Pig Producers and Slaughterhouses, Norma og Frode S. Jacobsens Fond, and Veterinary Practitioners Production Animals.

Three levels

Two of the three levels of Info Svin will be stored on a cd-rom, which can contain large amounts of information. Twice a year a new updated version will be mailed to all subscribers of Info Svin.

Info Svin Kilder

This level contains results from Danish tests in the form of notes, statements, reports, etc. A search for a desired subject will immediately provide the individual source with results from relevant tests.

Info Svin Kilder is divided into different categories with a series of key words attached allowing the user to restrict the search to the particular type of information needed. In addition the user can perform an unlimited search in the whole text, producing a list of all the sources containing the search word.

Info Svin Handbook

On the cd-rom more than 50 scientists have written about their knowledge of pig breeding, health, production etc. in a language easy to comprehend. This level contains descriptions of diseases, feeding, housing, norms, rules, breeding guidance and legislation, etc. Info Svin Handbook will be updated on a regular basis.

If, for example, a producer observes dark-coloured diarrhoea with suckling pigs in his herd, he can look up in Info Svin under suckling pigs and the symptom of diarrhoea. The system will then show an overview of various types of diarrhoea (colour and form vary). He then selects the form of diarrhoea most like the one observed. Info Svin will then find the disease or other factors which might cause the symptom, and then provides guidance on how to solve the problem.
Info Svin Post

A system for dispatch of electronic mail which can replace ordinary mail consignments from the National Committee for Pig Breeding, Health and Production, so that Info Svin will be updated weekly for advisors and other users.

The subscriber of Info Svin must get a modem for the computer in order to be linked to the Internet, buy a subscription to an E-mail address, buy a dialling programme, and of course a telephone line. The following mail systems act together with Info Svin Post, MS Exchange (Windows 95), MS Mail or Group Wise.

Many Info Svin subscribers are fully satisfied with receiving the two annual updated versions on cd-rom each year. Please notice that the Info Svin Post is an extended service which require that you are linked to the Internet.

Licensed subscribers of Info Svin are entitled to:

a - Text placed in Info Svin Kilder

The various institutions (such as the Danish Institute for Animal Science and The National Committee for Pig Breeding, Health and Production) have copyright to the scientific reports, etc, and each source mention origin and writer.

Should the subscriber of Info Svin use the results from the scientific reports, etc. in other contexts, it is a demand that origin is mentioned in accordance with the regulations concerning copyright.

b - Text placed in Info Svin Handbook

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c - Pictures and figures placed in Info Svin Handbook

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Please notice that pictures and figures without the ikon "COPY" may not be copied and used in your own guidance, for educational purposes, etc.
The price

Info Svin will be sold on subscription terms to pig producers, advisors and veterinarians, etc., at DKK 800 per year. Please notice that expenses for mail via Info Svin Post will be added should this service be desired. Private companies and foreigners can subscribe to Info Svin at a basic price of DKK 5,000 plus a subscription of DKK 800 per year.