THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SHIELDED METAL ARC WELDING (SMAW) IN THE ROAD TO AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) RECOVERY AND REPOPULATION

by:

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Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) is an arc welding process in which coalescence of metals is produced by heat from an electric arc that is maintained between the tip of a covered electrode and the surface of the base metal in the joint being welded. This welding process is by far the most widely used of the various arc welding processes because it is great for maintenance and repair works.

With the Philippines having had the African Swine Fever (ASF) for the last eight months, this article aims to impart adjustments pertinent to decision making processes of all stakeholders towards the road to recovery and repopulation.

Based on Philippine Statistics Authority (2019), as of October 01, 2019, the total inventory of swine in the country was estimated at 13.01 million heads. In backyard farms, swine inventory of 8.20 million heads decreased by 1.7 percent from previous year’s count of 8.34 million heads and still declining and African Swine Fever (ASF) as the main reason.

According to Dr. Angel Antonio Manabat (2020), a biosecurity assessment should include transport, people and supply entry, segregation of areas, examples: fencing, pest proofing, stock room, weaning pen, growing pen, gestating pen, lactating pen, animal deliveries and harvest facilities.

Most backyard farmers are now starting again, disinfecting the farms, buying new stocks and maintaining the biosecurity and cleanliness of the farms.
After 6-7 months, the gilts will become in heat and ready to breed. After breeding, these gilts will be send to the gestating pen wherein they stay there for 3 months and 2 weeks to avoid stress and injury. Ten (10) days before giving birth, they will be transfer to lactating pen to ensure safe farrowing. Many backyard farmers do not follow this procedure and the result is, lots of stillbirth, injury of the gilts and death of the piglets happens.

The fabrication of the gestating and lactating pen using Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) is very significant at this point of recovery and repopulation. The used of GI pipes are very recommendable in this kind of farm facility. It is durable and not prone to corrosions enable the owner to used this in a very long period of time and the return of investment (ROI) is 2 to 3 years.

Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) equipment is cheap and simple to use and people with very little training and practice are able to use the welding process to make reliable welds. A skilled operator can use this welding process to weld practically any material in virtually any situation.

References:


