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Memorandum

To: Trialists

Fr: Curtis Meinert

Re: What's time to a hog?

I have many sayings about my favorite farm animal, like one pig per blanket leastwise they all get away, but my favorite imponderable question is “what's time to a hog?”.

Clearly pigs have clocks, but we have no way of knowing how they perceive time.

I grew up on a farm with pigs, chickens, cows, and horses.

You can tell a lot about horses by their ears and eyes. If the ears are laid back and whites of eyes show, the horse is spooked and unpredictable; watch out.

You can kill horses by overwork, but not mules.

A mule is the product of a female horse and male donkey and usually sterile.

The thing with mules, they will quit when they have had it and will stay quit until they are good and ready to go again. The operational meaning of “stubborn as a mule”.

This behavior, no doubt, is why your chances of making it to California with mules were better than with horses in westward movement from St. Louis in the mid 1800s.

But I am partial to pigs. Unquestionably the smartest animal on the farm.

A pig is the only animal on the farm that does not eat like a hog. If cows get into where they are not supposed to be, they can founder and bloat. Not so with pigs.

Contrary to perception, pigs are fastidious. They will not foul their nest and sleep in it. To be sure, they have suffered bad press because of need to wallow in mud during hot summer days because of lack of sweat glands.

Sleepy Eye is home to Christensen Farms – a multi state hog operation.

I am with capitalist Carl Ichan in his campaign to be nice to pigs. His target is McDonald's to get them to stop buying pigs from growers caging farrowing sows. The purpose of caging is to reduce mortality in litters of newborns by sows accidentally laying on them.

Go Carl Ichan!