



Dr. C. F. Cargill, left, senior veterinary research officer, pig diseases, and Mr. P. Heap, officer in charge of the pig research unit, weigh a pig at the new Northfield centre.

PIG DISEASE STUDY UNIT COMPLETED

A new minimal disease unit has been added to pig research facilities at the SA Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Northfield branch.

The Senior Veterinary Research Officer for Pig Diseases (Dr. C. F. Cargill) has announced that the new unit would be used for research on leptospirosis, a bacterial disease which caused abortions in pigs.

Dr. Cargill said the unit would be used to find out how long a vaccine for the disease was effective. To do this it

was essential for the pigs to be disease free.

All pigs at the unit had either been bred there, or had been introduced through hysterectomy.

Dr. Cargill said that once leptospirosis had been introduced to the unit, all visitors would have to strip and have a shower and then dress in special clothing once inside the unit.

The unit is the third to be

built at Northfield.

A grant of \$12,000 from the Australian Pig Industry Research Committee and \$40,000 of State funds had been made available to build the unit and a nearby laboratory.

In another minimal disease unit at Northfield, results have been coming in on research into sarcoptic mange.

Dr. Cargill said it had been estimated that about 90 p.c. of pig herds in SA were infested with sarcoptic mange and

that this caused a 5 to 10 p.c. reduction in growth rates.

After a study into the survival of the parasitic mite that causes the mange, assessments have been made into ways of treating it.

Treatments with kerosene and diesel oil were moderately effective, either by themselves or with insecticides.

Insecticides prevented infection, but only if the mange was already under control.

With one exception, diazinon-based products were quite effective. Trichlorophon scored moderately well if used externally and internally at the same time.

Malathion appeared to be ineffective when used as directed, but producers who had mixed Malathion with diesel oil had achieved satisfactory results, Dr. Cargill said.