

● **Hog Cholera**

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mal Disease Eradication Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Seven states are in Phase I; twenty-nine, including Pennsylvania, are in Phase II; five are in Phase III, and eight are in Phase IV. Dr. J. C. Shook, director of the state's Bureau of Animal Industry, and Dr. R. W. Boone, federal veterinarian in charge, point out that each of these four phases represents a gradual build-up in a state's fight against hog cholera.

The first phase involves getting the program organized and under way — distributing information, developing a system for telephone reporting of outbreaks, arranging for complete investigation of outbreaks to find the sources, and increasing inspection of garbage feeders.

The purpose of Phase II is

to reduce the incidence of the disease to a very low level. The state will accomplish this by continuing all measures developed in Phase I, as well as by quarantining infected and exposed herds, and putting into effect intrastate shipping rules designed to prevent the spread of hog cholera by pigs that move from markets back to farms.

Phase III is the active eradication part of the program — the first phase in which cooperative state-federal indemnities are available as an added tool to help wipe out the last remnants of hog cholera. Dr. Shook and Dr. Boone emphasize that Pennsylvania will enter this phase only after the incidence of hog cholera has been reduced to a low level where indemnities will provide an efficient way to get rid of the remaining pockets of infection.

When hog cholera has been apparently eliminated from a

state, it can enter Phase IV, a period of protection against reinfection. If the state remains free of infection for at least a year, and meets certain other requirements, it can be officially declared "hog cholera free."

Dr. Shook and Dr. Boone point out that nationwide goals for the eradication of hog cholera were recently established by the National Hog Cholera Committee of Livestock Conservation, Inc., an organization representing the livestock industry. These goals call for practical eradication by the end of 1969, and declaration of the nation as "hog cholera free" by 1972. Both goals have been endorsed as "realistic and attainable" by the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture's National Hog Cholera Advisory Committee. The 1969 goal is labeled "practical eradication," the veterinarians explained, because it is usually necessary for the nation

to remain free of a disease for about three years before it can be officially declared free.

Intermediate goals call for all states to be in Phase II or higher by the end of 1965, and all states to be in Phase III or IV by the end of 1967.

"Pennsylvania has met the first requirement," the veterinary officials said, "and we intend to meet the second also." Tentative plans call for Pennsylvania to move into Phase III by January 1, 1966.

● **Dairy Show**

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stalls, equipment and personnel; attractiveness of exhibit, milking techniques, courtesy to visitors and cooperation with the show management

An international event, the All-American will be open to breeders of registered dairy

cattle in the United States and Canada. At the first show a year ago nearly 2,500 animals were entered from sixteen states and the Dominion. Entries close August 15.

This year's show will conform closely to the pattern set at the initial event. Rules and regulations will be little changed, except that free substitutions will be permitted in the make-up of classes within the limits of number of animals entered.

Cuthbert Nairn, Douglassville, president of the Pennsylvania Dairy and Allied Industries Association, said herdsmen who win the "good housekeeping" awards and show donors will be honored at a recognition planned for Thursday night, Sept. 13 in the Farm Show Building.

Ten-Year Effects Of Swine Tests Are Reviewed

In the United States during the past ten years swine testing stations, with 38 presently in operation, and the All Breed Meat Certification Program have greatly aided in the location and identification of meat type breeding stock, according to W H Bruner, extension specialist on leave from Ohio State University.

Swine testing station records recently reviewed indicate over 21,000 carcasses have been evaluated, and the All Breed Certification Program has certified 13,612 litters, he reported

In securing carcass data all stations and the Breed Certification Program reported backfat thickness, loin eye area (10th rib) and carcass length. Additional data reported included rate of gain or age at 200 pounds. Some stations also reported lean cut yield and/or ham and loin yield and feed efficiency.

Over 20,000 boars have been evaluated by stations. Boar evaluation programs (backfat probe, feed efficiency and rate of gain) are supplemented by production and carcass data on slaughter animals sired by the same boar

A total of 1298 sires have been certified Meat Sires, Superior Meat Sires, and Pace-setter Meat Sires by the nine breeds as part of the National Breed Meat Certification Program

Several states are using ultrasonics as a useful tool in selecting breeding stock indicating a good correlation between estimates of backfat and loin eye area and the total amount of lean meat in the live hog

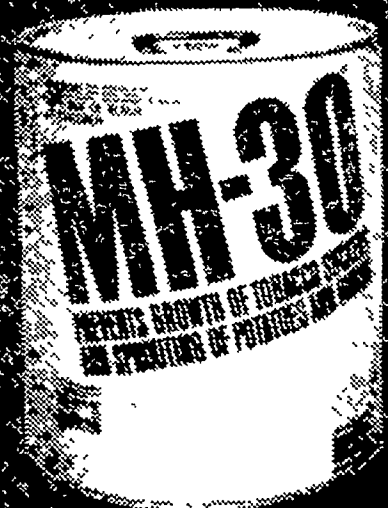
Improvements during the ten years of swine evaluation reveal

- 1—Backfat thickness has been greatly reduced
- 2 — Meatiness of carcass, expressed as percent of lean cuts of ham/loin has increased appreciably
- 3 — Loin eye size and carcass length have tended to increase
- 4 — Improvement in rate of gain and feed efficiency has accompanied increase in carcass meatiness

Although there has been considerable interest in establishing a swine testing station in Pennsylvania, and ultimately there will probably be one, state swine breeders must presently depend on neighboring states for this service.

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