

Florida Loses "Hog Cholera Free" Status

Florida has lost its recently acquired "hog cholera free" status because of an extensive outbreak of the disease, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

Since mid-September, there have been 52 confirmed outbreaks of hog cholera in 21 Florida counties. The outbreaks have involved more than 8,500 hogs with an appraised value of about \$250,000.

Florida will operate in Phase IV of the four-phase hog cholera eradication campaign being waged by USDA's Agricultural Research Service and the States in cooperation with the swine industry. This phase calls for immediate elimination of any hog cholera outbreaks and provides a surveillance period to make sure the disease has been eradicated.

Florida qualified for "hog cholera free" status last July and was presented with a certificate recognizing the State's achievement on Sept. 10. Shortly after the infection was discovered, a State-wide quarantine on hog shipments — except to slaughter — was put into effect to help stop the spread of the disease. All infected herds are being destroyed according to Phase IV procedures to wipe out the infection and thus enable the State to regain its "free" status.

Before a State can be declared "hog cholera free" there must be (1) no outbreaks for at least 1 year, and (2) no living vaccines used for at least 1 year. A State can maintain its "free" status as long as it experiences only primary outbreaks — that is, infection introduced from outside the State with no farm-to-farm spread after it enters. If a State loses its status, it must go for another year without an outbreak before it again qualifies as "hog cholera free."

Investigation into the source of infection and method of spread in Florida is continuing. However, State and Federal officials in Florida feel that because of the extent of the infection and the probability of spread after the disease entered the State, Florida can no longer be considered "hog cholera free."

Pa. Grain Stocks Up 28 Percent

Stocks of all grain (excluding soybeans) in storage October 1, 1968 were 59.4 million bushels. This compares with 45.0 million bushels on October 1, 1967. Feed grain stocks (corn, oats and barley) increased 59 percent and food grains (wheat and rye) decreased 20 percent from a year earlier.

Wheat stocks of 12.0 million bushels dropped 20 percent from October 1967. On-farm stocks dropped 29 percent and off-farm stocks 12 percent from a year earlier.

Old crop corn in storage (18.1 million bushels) almost tripled from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks were 13 percent more than a year earlier and on-farm stocks more than three times as great as on October 1, 1967.

Oats stock of 21.7 million bushels were up 24 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks were up 18 percent while on-farm stocks increased by 25 percent.

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