

U. S. Increases Hog Indemnity Benefits

Maximum Federal indemnity gilts have been raised from \$50 payments for Grade sows and to \$100 per head under a change

in hog cholera indemnity regulations, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported recently

Under the change in regulations, the maximum limit for grade sows and gilts is raised from \$50 to \$100. The State share of indemnity is also 50 per cent of the appraised value, subject again to various State limitations on the maximum payment per head.

neither too much nor too little," Dr. Tillery said.

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Indemnity payments to owners of hogs that must be destroyed because of hog cholera are shared by the Federal and State Governments in States that are carrying out final "stamping out" actions against this disease. All but three States — Arizona, Maine, and New York — have reached this stage of the nationwide hog cholera eradication program.

Under Federal indemnity regulations, hogs destroyed because of hog cholera are appraised at their actual value for meat, feeding, or breeding purposes. The Federal share of indemnity is 50 per cent of this appraisal, subject to certain maximum limits. These limits had been \$50 for grade animals and \$100 for registered

purbred, inbred or hybrid animals. Under the change in regulations, the maximum limit for grade sows and gilts is raised from \$50 to \$100. The State share of indemnity is also 50 per cent of the appraised value, subject again to various State limitations on the maximum payment per head.

The increase in the maximum payment for this class of animals was made to help bring indemnities into line with the actual value of the swine destroyed, according to Dr. M. J. Tillery, in charge of hog cholera eradication for the ARS Animal Health Division.

In the final phases of the eradication program each outbreak of hog cholera is handled on an emergency or "stamp out" basis. This means prompt and complete disposal of all infected and exposed herds. "By prompt elimination of infection, we help keep the disease from spreading," Dr. Tillery said.

In other action, federal hog cholera indemnity regulations have been changed to permit the USDA to pay half the costs of the destruction and disposal of swine infected with or exposed to hog cholera.

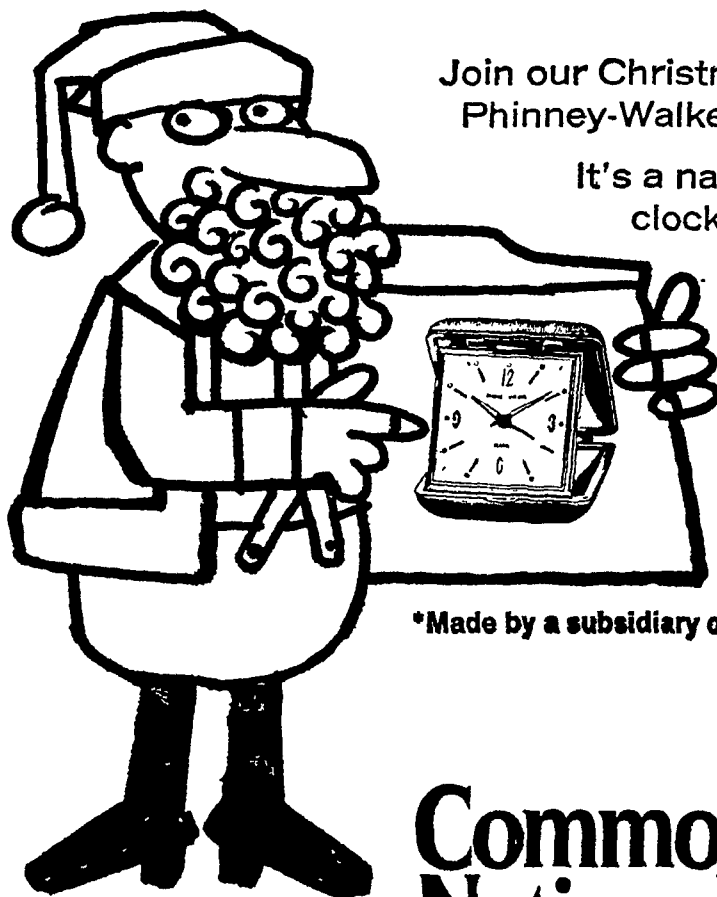
Previously, the Department did not pay for the transportation, burial, incineration, or other expenses incurred in connection with the depopulation of infected or exposed herds.

The regulation change also permits the Department to pay for the care and feeding of swine held for destruction. However, such expenses are deducted from the appraised value of the swine prior to computing the indemnity payment due the owner.

The change was made to facilitate the prompt depopulation of infected and exposed herds. Occasionally, owners have had difficulty in arranging for burial equipment or for trucks to take animals to the rendering plant. This delays depopulation and risks spread of the disease, ARS officials said.

All but three States—Arizona, Maine, and New York — are engaged in final stamping out activities against hog cholera. In these States all infected and exposed herds are eliminated, with indemnity payments to help compensate owners for their losses.

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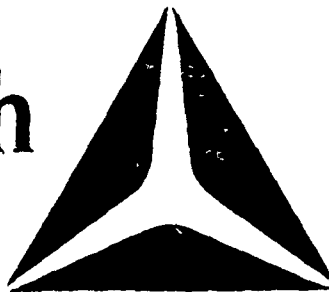
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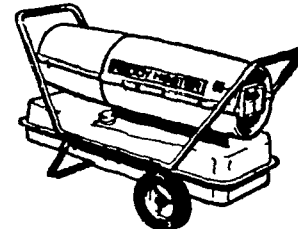


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