

State Report on Ag Waste

(Continued from Page 10)

interfering with business, it should be done."

The Cost Factor

The cost of correcting agricultural waste conditions will be heavy, Hetrick pointed out, and cannot be shouldered entirely by the farmer.

"The benefits of all agricultural waste management programs need to be carefully weighed against their costs," said Dr. Gilbert H. Porter, director of research for Agway Inc. "It must be recognized that

the close margins now being realized by most farmers and agribusiness firms will permit minimal absorption of increased costs. The consumer of the products of agriculture must be prepared to bear higher prices."

New laws relating to environmental quality, he said, must be based on sound research and must be flexible enough to adequately handle emergencies."

Richard W. Eldredge, a professional engineer of West Chester, told the group that research must produce "new methods or products in such a manner that waste quantities are not created and the present waste burden will be reduced."

New concepts of solid waste management, he declared, must be researched and developed to mitigate the anticipated higher costs required to reduce environmental impact created by the generation of these wastes. Reuse and recycle appears to be the only alternative to wasting."

Speaking at the closing session, Dr. Robert White-Stephens, chairman of the Bureau of Conservation and Environmental Science at Rutgers University, cautioned that "for America, the hardest task in improving the environment lies in the radical changes required in its sense of values. Today, nothing less than survival is at stake. The problem is to get enough people to realize this blunt truth while there is still time to act."

'Crash Program' May

(Continued from Page 1)

"dramatic reduction" in cholera cases, Dr. Forney said.

But he cautioned local farmers not to ease up in their concern about hog cholera and to continue to take the usual precautions to avoid it.

Pennsylvania is still requiring serum for incoming swine from other states. The serum must be administered within five days of arrival of the animals. This requirement will continue until it is felt that hog cholera is under control in the surrounding states, he said, although the requirement may be dropped after the disease is under control in the neighboring states.

Recently the recommended serum dosage was increased by about 50 per cent to increase the effectiveness and provide for under-dosage and seepage.

The state is also asking that if swine are being imported from areas known to have cholera, such as Virginia, North Carolina, Missouri, and Texas, that permission be obtained before importing.

If a case of cholera is found in the future, the past procedure of quarantine and destruction of exposed animals would continue.

Dr. Forney emphasized the importance to the farmer of re-

porting suspected cholera cases to avoid wholesale spread of the disease. If not contained, it can spread like wild fire, he said. He also noted that when cholera is detected, the farmer gets reimbursed only for those animals still living at the time officials are called in to inspect the animals.

Dr. Forney advised farmers to contact a veterinarian or regulatory person as soon as any swine sickness of any kind occurs. Early detection is important, he emphasized.

Imported animals should also be placed under quarantine. The isolation or quarantine period was increased recently from 30 to 60 days because some outbreaks were found to be occurring after about 45 days.

Dr. Forney said Pennsylvania may apply to the USDA for phase four status in its hog cholera eradication program soon. If the state goes for one year without cholera in phase four, it would apply for free status.

Any buyer having questions about infected states or other information can call Dr. Forney at Harrisburg 787-5333.

Dr. J. B. Stauffer, state veterinarian who works out of Lancaster and Middletown, confirmed Dr. Forney's advice.

In addition, he suggested that buying pigs locally can "eliminate quite a bit of exposure," but he noted that there aren't enough local pigs to meet the demand.

When buying out of state pigs, Dr. Stauffer said, the buyer should see a copy of the seller's out-of-state health chart.

The 60 day quarantine period should be observed, since farmers can now get the full price of their animals reimbursed when cholera is detected. Most farmers now report the disease, he noted.

He concluded "If the individual farmer goes about it right, cholera shouldn't be much of a problem."



Holiday Greetings

Greetings and best wishes to all our neighbors and patrons during this Yuletide.

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