

U. S. Hog Cholera Continues Down

Only four hog cholera-infected swine herds were found in June—the fewest for any month since the National Hog Cholera Eradication Program began in 1962—the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported recently.

The previous monthly low, according to officials of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, was in February 1971 when 10 herds were found to have hog cholera.

June's low infection is more impressive when compared with previous years. In June, 1970, 89 infected herds were recorded and in June 1969, there were 212 infected herds. June is usually a high-incidence month for hog cholera.

Hog cholera was down 66 per cent in Fiscal Year (FY) 1971 (which ended June 30, 1971) compared with fiscal year 1970—dropping from 1,231 to 418 infected herds reported. Fiscal

year 1971 is the lowest fiscal year on record for hog cholera.

The 5-month period from January through June 1971 showed an even greater reduction in incidence—72 per cent—with only 100 infected herds reported, compared with 361 for the same period in 1970.

ARS officials are concerned about the recent report of African swine fever in Cuba, since the two diseases have nearly identical signs. Farmers, especially in Florida and other Southeast States, have been asked to report any hog cholera-like symptoms in their swine herds without delay.

Specimens submitted to ARS' National Animal Disease Laboratory at Ames, Iowa, for hog cholera diagnostic tests are routinely checked for African swine fever.

To help assure that the United States is "hog cholera free" by December 1972, ARS officials urge farmers to continue reporting any suspicions of infection in their herds. Hog cholera has been a cyclic plague in this country since the mid-1800's.

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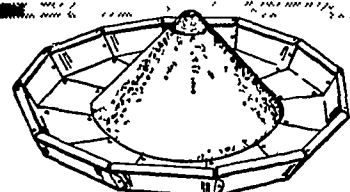
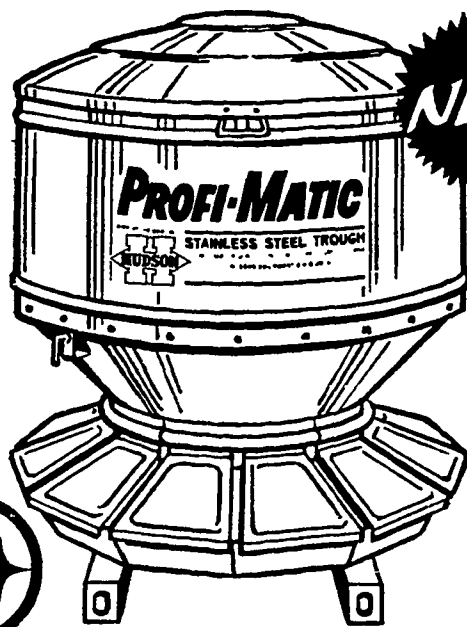
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Pa. Food Stamp Program Reorganized

The Federal administration of the Food Stamp Program in Pennsylvania was recently consolidated under two district offices with six field offices and 13 "satellite" locations, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The USDA's Northeast Regional Food and Nutrition Service Offices in New York City announced that under the reorganization it will close its existing field offices in Bethlehem, Coudersport, New Castle and Norristown and expects to convert its offices in Clearfield, Uniontown and Williamsport into "satellites."

The action is a result of a national USDA reorganization of its food stamp field structure, and is designed to bring about a more economical and efficient operation of the food assistance program.

One of the district offices will be located in Philadelphia, with field offices in Altoona, Harrisburg, Philadelphia and Wilkes-Barre. It will have field representatives assigned to "satellite" locations within a 49-county area in eastern and central Pennsylvania.

Joseph P. Mauer has been appointed the District Manager for this office. He brings to his new position many years experience with the Food Stamp Program. Prior to his appointment he had been the Officer-in-Charge of the Trenton, N.J. Food Stamp Pro-

gram field office. In that position he played a major role in implementing the program's expansion in central and southern New Jersey.

The other district office will be headquartered in Pittsburgh, with field offices in Erie and Pittsburgh and five "satellite" locations within Pennsylvania. This district will cover 18 western Pennsylvania counties as well as the entire state of West Virginia. The latter will have

three field offices and 10 "satellites."

Ray E. Artz will become the District Manager in Pittsburgh. He, too, has been associated with the program for many years.

As Officer-in-Charge of the Pittsburgh field office, he was actively involved in expanding the program to many western Pennsylvania counties. In addition, he performed similar duties in a large area of central New York State last spring.

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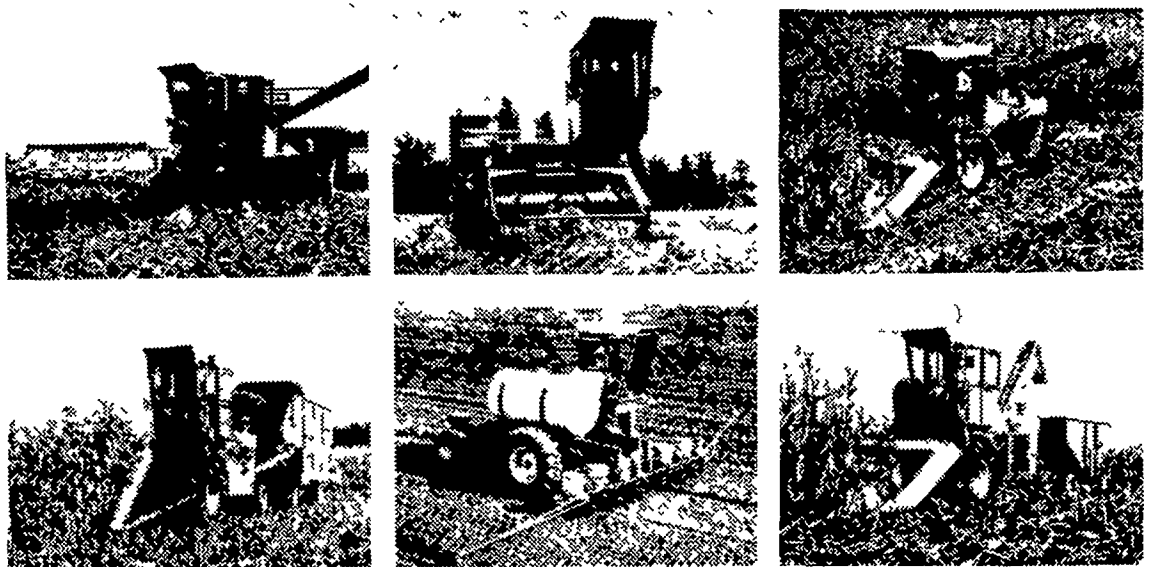
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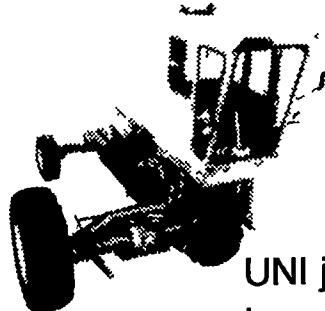


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