

## Maryland Is 26th Cholera Free State

Maryland has been officially certified "Hog Cholera Free" by the United States Department of Agriculture.

State Veterinarian Dr. T.A. Ladson said the Hog Cholera Free status means savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, better prices for consumers, expanded export swine trade, increased intrastate trade, and improved and upgraded swine herds for Maryland.

No case of the highly contagious, disastrous swine disease has been detected in Maryland for more than a year, according to State Board of Agriculture Animal Health Department (AHD) officials.

As recently as 1969, 91 herds, totaling over 16,000 animals, valued at over \$600,000 had to be destroyed to prevent spread of this dread swine disease in Maryland.

The Maryland Hog Cholera Control Team received one of only 10 USDA "Distinguished Service Awards" given in the nation for its work in bringing that 1969 outbreak under control without a disastrous spread to other states. The team was cited for "excellence in service to agriculture, the state, and the

nation in averting a major disease epidemic and agribusiness disaster."

Maryland is the 26th state to achieve the "free" status—well in advance of the December 1972 target date for elimination of the disease in the U.S. under the USDA's National Hog Cholera Eradication Program.

Dr. Ladson said the accomplishment of ridding the state of this highly destructive animal

disease "is a tribute to the outstanding cooperation and effort of many people and organizations—the swine growers, the Maryland Pork Producers Association, the practicing veterinarians, the Cooperative Extension Service, the University of Maryland Animal Science Department, and, of course, the State Board of Agriculture and USDA Animal Health Departments that directed the program."

## Apply Fertilizer in Fall

Lime, phosphorus and potash can be applied during the fall months.

This is because at this time of year the soil is firm and suffers less from heavy spreading equipment, explains Max Smith, Lancaster County ag agent.

Since plant nutrient levels in the soil are always low at the end of the crop season, fall is ideal for taking a lime and plant food inventory of next year's crop needs.

General fertilizer recommendations are useful under average conditions.

However, Pennsylvania soils vary widely in fertility. This makes soil tests necessary for the most efficient crop production. The point is that your farm probably is not average.

The best fertilizer recommendations for the soils on your farm can be made only on the basis of soil tests. The cost of the test is low compared with the increased profits from properly fertilized crops.

### True Midget

Charles Sherwood was the real name of perhaps the most famous midget who ever lived. He was a true midget, not a dwarf. P. T. Barnum, the showman, engaged him for exhibition purposes and changed his name to Tom Thumb.

## Egg Men, Heart Doctor Meet

"We generally had a very satisfactory meeting with Dr. Campbell Moses, medical director of American Heart Association. He listened intently to questions we raised. He advanced some explanations for the AHA position. I'm sure neither side convinced the other. But we did develop a better understanding," commented Blanton Smith, chairman of the National Commission on Egg Nutrition, following a two-hour conference recently in New York City.

The committee, through its chairman, posed several carefully structured questions. Dr. Moses and his nutritional advisors were first informed that the committee in no way questioned the physician-patient relationship.

The committee did express deep concern over the broad nutritional recommendations made to the total population in the absence of scientific proof. The committee did learn:

— Eggs are indicted solely because of their high cholesterol content and not because of the saturated fatty acids.

— The National Dairy Council has a "scientific observer" who meets with the Nutrition Committee of the AHA.

— The egg industry might be invited to also have an observer.

— Recommendations on dietary cholesterol (and use of eggs) are based on "best clinical judgment" (physician's observations), as there is no absolute scientific proof that dietary cholesterol is harmful.

— Most dietary studies are not structured to set dietary intake of cholesterol out separately from other known risk factors.

— Intake of cholesterol above 900 ppm daily show no measurable effects because the intake is excessive.

— The medical and nutritional professions do not yet know how to manipulate body or systemic cholesterol, but believe they can control total cholesterol by manipulating dietary cholesterol.

Dr. Moses said the Heart Association disclaimed any part in the Stamler appearance on the Mike Wallace TV show of April 27. They had no prior knowledge of the show.

Dr. Moses also expressed surprise at the immediate effect of such performances on egg sales. When it was explained that egg producers are losing \$13 to \$25 million dollars per week because of the concerted cholesterol attacks, he reminded the committee that this was the first time a group representing the egg industry had brought the matter to their attention.

"Moses assured the committee that there would be a careful review of AHA recommendations by their Nutrition Committee late in October," concluded Smith.

## Feed Grain Program To Be Outlined Early

Feed grain and cotton programs for 1972 will be announced very soon to give farmers more time to make important decisions about planting and agricultural financing. Under Secretary of Agriculture J. Phil Campbell told the 11th Annual State Convention of the Texas Association of ASCS County Employees recently

Speaking during the morning session of the convention, Campbell said programs for corn, milo, barley, and cotton will be finally formulated after program planners have had a chance to review the October 12 Crop Report.

"As soon as we have had a chance to look at the October Crop Report and get a better idea of the final production we can expect during the 1971 crop year, we can make necessary decisions on what should be done next year to control production where needed, accelerate production in some cases and stabilize prices," the Under Secretary explained.

"Announcing details of the 1972 program this early will give farmers as well as local ASCS office employees more time to make vital decisions as to acreages and production for the coming year," he added. "We realize that last year the program was announced late because Congress was late in passing the Agricultural Act of 1970 and this produced problems for farmers and ASCS employees as well."



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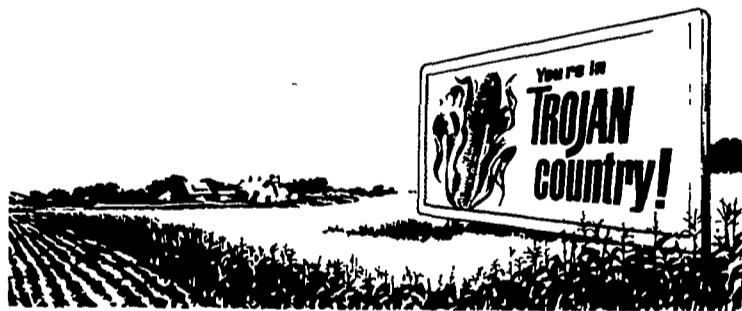
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