

New Toughness Urged in Hog Cholera Eradication

The National Hog Cholera Eradication Advisory Committee has urged hog farmers, veterinarians and animal health officials to adopt a 'new toughness' toward hog cholera.

"We need a new toughness, a new kind of response that cannot be written into regulations," said Keith Myers, committee member and an Iowa feeder-pig dealer.

The 12-member committee, meeting in Indianapolis, Ind., asked animal health officials and producers to regard hog cholera in the same class as foot-and-mouth disease and African swine fever. To implement this attitude, they recommended measures to further strengthen the cooperative State-Federal Hog Cholera Eradication Program.

Committee chairman Dr. Francis J. Mulhern, Acting Administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), said the committee recommendations dealt with problem areas where hog cholera infection persists.

"We have beat hog cholera

down to a level that we can handle," Dr. Mulhern said. "But from this point on we must bear down to find and eradicate every source of virus."

The committee expressed concern over the recent recurrence of hog cholera in widely separated areas where the disease had not been seen in many months. Members felt that there was a need for stronger quarantines, tighter control over swine movements, and faster action to contain outbreaks.

Committee member Dr. John W. Montgomery, a practicing veterinarian in Oklahoma, said, "We will miss the goal for nationwide eradication in 1972, which we set eight years ago. However, if our recommendations are implemented and we all stay alert, hog cholera should be eradicated by December 1973."

Committee recommendations to APHIS and State Departments of Agriculture include:

—Larger quarantine areas and longer quarantine periods when outbreaks occur, especially if the

disease spreads to more than one farm.

—Tighter control of swine moving to slaughter from quarantined areas.

—Stronger restrictions against imports of swine and pork products from nations where hog cholera exists.

—A hog cholera buffer zone along the U.S.-Mexico border, staffed with full-time diagnosticians and livestock inspectors.

—Immediate destruction of swine herds (with quarantines and indemnity payments) when

USDA Reports Ag Price Index

The Index of Prices Received by Farmers, which advanced 4 points (3 pct.) during the month ended May 15 hit 123 (pct. of its Jan.-Dec. 1967 average), tied the all-time high established in February 1951 and equalled in April 1951. Prices were also 11 points (10 pct.) above a year ago. Mainly responsible for the April-to-May boost: Higher livestock, fruit, vegetable, cotton prices that more-than-offset lower milk prices.

In the meantime, the Prices Paid Index, which hit a record 125 a month earlier, stayed right there last month. It was up 5 points (4 pct.) from a year earlier. The Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid advanced 3 points to 98. It had been at 93 a year earlier.

Under the old 1910-14 formula, Prices Received advanced 10 points to 313 and had been 285 a year earlier; Prices Paid remained at 428 and had been 410 a year earlier; and the Parity Ratio advanced two points to 73, and had been 70 a year earlier.

Extinct Bird

The dodo was a heavy, flightless bird once found in great numbers on Mauritius Island. It was exterminated in the 17th century.

clinical symptoms and diagnostic procedures strongly indicate hog cholera.

—Back-up testing by the National Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at Ames, Iowa, to support State diagnostic testing on all highly suspicious cases and on cases from States where hog cholera quarantines are in effect.

—Increased fees required by States to license garbage-feeding

to swine and strict penalties—including license cancellation—for violation of garbage-cooking requirements.

—Testing of State swine identification systems to be sure that swine ownership can be traced from slaughter plants back to the farm of origin.

—Serum neutralization tests on show swine and some breeding stock to detect illegal hog cholera vaccination.



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