

Producers Warned About Hog Cholera

Following confirmation this week of several scattered outbreaks of hog cholera in Kentucky, North Carolina, and South Carolina, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has warned swine producers to remain alert for signs of the disease.

Officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recommended that all swine moving through areas of confirmed cases should go direct to slaughter, or should be kept separate from other swine on the

farm for 30 days and observed closely for signs of sickness. APHIS veterinarians said this is especially true for producers participating in swine shows at State or county fairs.

The Kentucky cases were the first found in that State since December 10, 1969. The first outbreak in the intervening 31 months was confirmed on Aug. 21, when a case was diagnosed in Breckenridge county. This was followed closely by confirmation of a case in Hardin county on



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Aug. 23; and cases in Larue and Monroe counties on Aug. 24. State quarantines have been placed on 13 counties, and all livestock markets handling swine in the counties have been closed to help prevent further spread of the disease.

Regulatory officials in Indiana and Ohio have been notified that feeder pigs sold at markets in the area surrounding the confirmed cases had moved into their states. Officials of all three states are tracing all pigs sold at these markets, and are watching these animals closely for any sign of sickness.

The cases in North and South Carolina have been in counties where cases were reported earlier this year. They are Columbus and Nash counties in North Carolina, and Anderson county in South Carolina.

Confirmed cases of hog cholera have increased from one in April to four in May, eight in June, eight in July and to 11 so far in August. Single cases of hog cholera in August came from Adams county in Nebraska, and Lafayette Parish in Louisiana. All infected and exposed herds have been destroyed and their owners paid State and Federal indemnities, USDA said.

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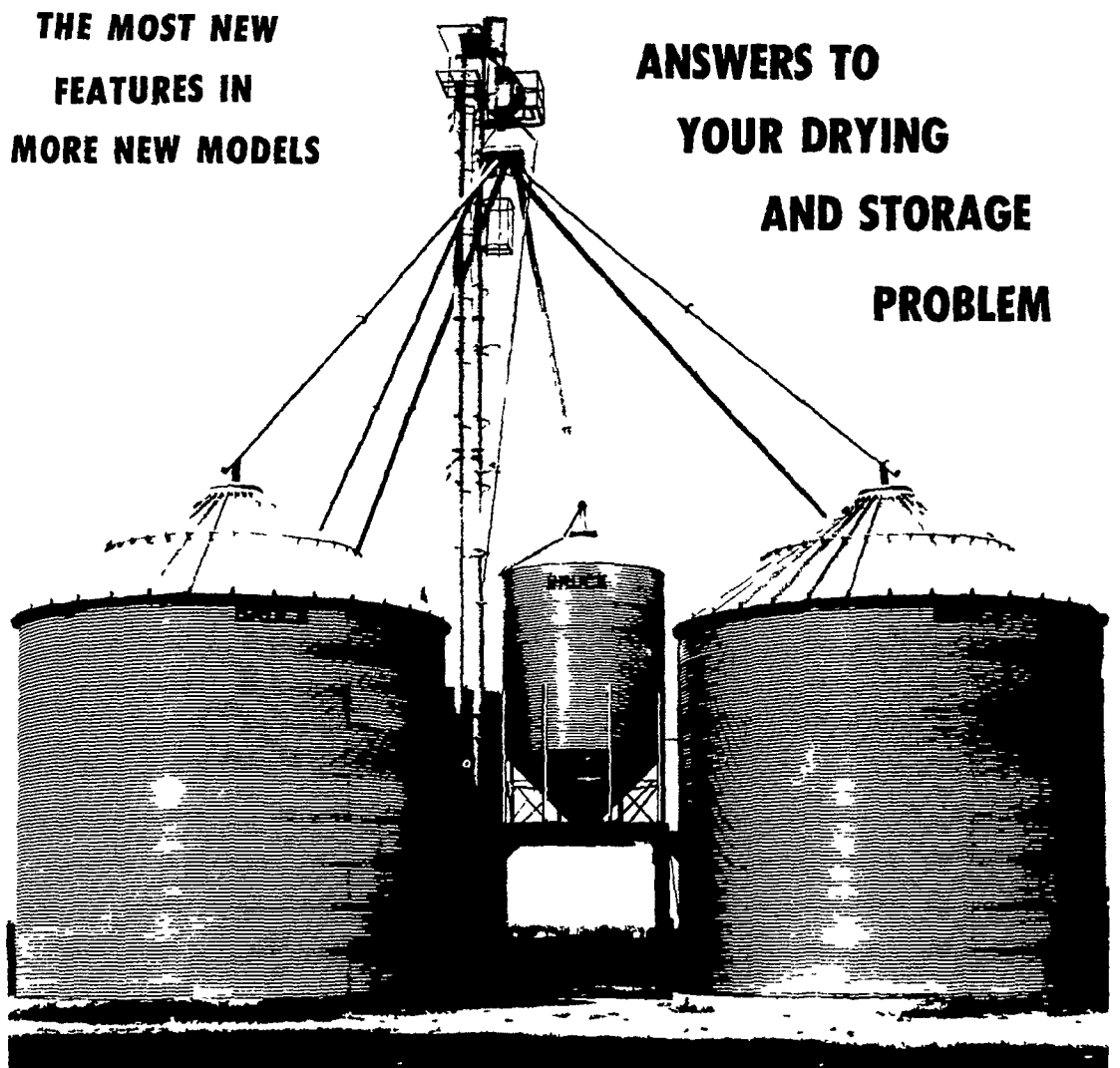
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