

National Hog Cholera Emergency

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moving to consumers in the coming months.

USDA officials emphasized that hog cholera does not affect humans and is not transmissible to them. They point out that hog cholera is a virus disease which, though highly contagious and usually fatal in swine, is totally unrelated to the human cholera disease which is caused by bacteria.

As part of the emergency action, effective immediately, USDA has changed its regulations to increase the federal share of indemnity from 50 to 75 percent in infected states, provided those states maintain an adequate identification system for feeder pigs and breeding swine. If isolated cases should occur in "hog cholera free" states, the federal share will remain at 90 percent. State indemnity is set at 25 and 10 percent, respectively, for infected and "free" states.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) said that since July 1, there have been 99 cases of hog cholera reported in 14 States—Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, New

Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas—and Puerto Rico. This compares with 76 cases reported during all of the fiscal year ending June 30.

This flareup of the disease has forced USDA to remove its "hog cholera free" status from Nebraska, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Tennessee. Some 39,000 hogs have had to be destroyed and their owners paid indemnities, financed jointly by the States and USDA. Other States considered to be infected are New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Puerto Rico. The remaining 41 States are "hog cholera free."

By declaring a national emergency, the Secretary is authorized to acquire funds and people necessary to carry out an all-out disease eradication campaign against hog cholera.

Butz also called on hog farmers to lend their full support to the eradication effort by promptly reporting any sickness in their hogs to their veterinarians, county agent, or state or federal animal health officials.

"The quicker we can locate all sources of infection, the faster we can take the necessary action to eliminate the disease," he emphasized.

Eradication procedures include:

(1) Destruction of all infected and exposed herds, with indemnities paid to owners. Hogs are appraised for the actual value for meat, feeding or breeding purposes and indemnities are based on this appraisal.

(2) State and federal quarantines of areas where infection is discovered. At present, all or portions of 43 counties in nine States are under Federal quarantine. States affected include Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The entire Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is also under Federal quarantine.

(3) Investigation and traceback on all cases of hog cholera to locate and eliminate the source of the disease and any possible spread. Specially trained diagnosticians are being assigned to affected areas for surveillance and investigation of suspected cases.

(4) Tight enforcement of shipping rules and market regulations. This will include veterinary inspection at markets.

Other eradication activities include inspection of garbage-feeding operations and a continuing search to detect unknown garbage feeders.

"We have the skill and know-how to eradicate this disease," pointed out Dr. F. J. Mulhern, APHIS Administrator. "We have demonstrated this capability by wiping out hog cholera in 46 States. Five of those States have been reinfected in the current outbreaks."

"These outbreaks are looked upon as the last effort of the virus to survive. It is a time that demands all-out effort by the industry, and the State and Federal governments to find the last remnants of the disease and eliminate it. That is the reason for the declaration of the emergency."

Cattle Feeders Tour

The Lancaster County Cattle Feeder's Tour will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, October 31 and November 1, in the state of Virginia. The purpose of the tour will be to observe and study the outstanding cattle feeding farms in the Shenandoah Valley.

The group will be traveling by bus and advanced reservations are necessary. The group will be limited to two bus loads, which will leave from the Farm and Home Center by 7 a.m. the morning of October 31.

Reservations must be made by Wednesday, October 25. For further information contact the Lancaster County Extension Office, 1383 Arcadia Road, or call 394-6851.



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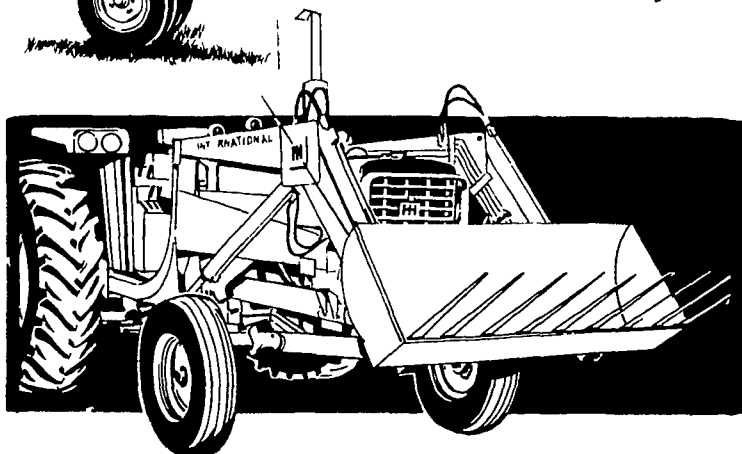
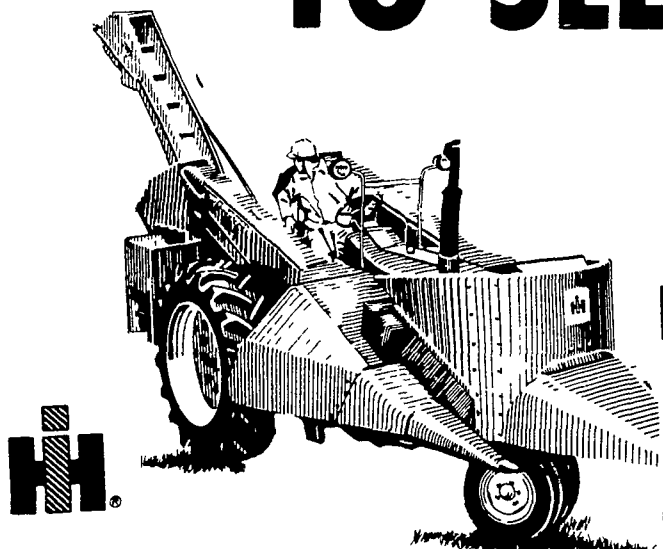
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