

Swine Identification for Disease Eradication

How can the goal of eradicating diseases in swine best be reached?

A major step would be — identification, say animal health officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Recent field studies of a slap-tattoo identification system show that by its use diseased hogs can be quickly traced back to their herds of origin. The trials were conducted by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) with the cooperation of stockyards at East St. Louis, Ill., Kansas City, Mo., St. Paul, Minn., and Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

APHIS officials say that the rapid movement of animals through commercial marketing channels these days makes it essential to locate and eradicate sources of disease as rapidly as possible. Thus, the nationwide



As the tattooed carcass moves through the scalding and dehairing processes, the tattoo numbers remain clearly legible on the skin.



During carcass inspection, samples of blood and tissue are taken for brucellosis and tuberculosis testing. If lesions of tuberculosis are found in tissue samples or if blood samples test positive for brucellosis, the diseased hog can be traced back to the farmer using the recorded tattoo number.

use of the tattoo system would be a major step toward the eradication of such diseases of swine as tuberculosis, brucellosis and trichinosis.

The tattoo used in the trials consists of six digits — the top three letters indicating the market and the bottom three digits indicating the lot number. The tattoo is applied on the shoulder of the hogs either when they are in pens or when they

move through chutes. Tattoo identification numbers are entered on the dock ticket, scale ticket, invoice, or other document retained by the marketing agency. As the carcass moves through the scalding and dehairing processes, the tattoo numbers remain clearly legible on the skin.

If inspection by Federal or State inspectors turns up lesions

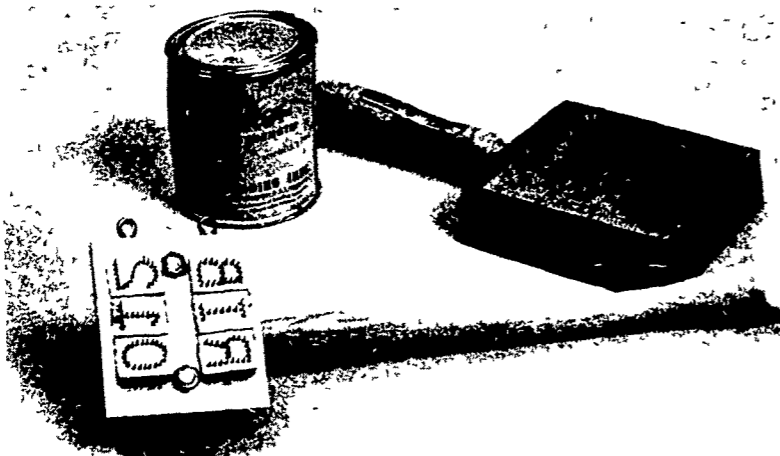
of tuberculosis or blood samples that test positive for brucellosis, the diseased hog can be traced quickly to the farm of origin by checking the recorded tattoo number. Then, action can be taken to eliminate the disease problem. Top swine producers strongly endorse this iden-

tification system.

Animal health officials are hopeful that nationwide acceptance of the system will be a benchmark in achieving eradication of some of the major swine diseases that now plague U.S. hog production.



Swine identification tattoos are applied to the shoulder of the hog. Here, a stockyard worker tattoos a hog during tests conducted of a USDA-proposed swine identification system. These tests were held recently at four terminal markets. Preliminary reports of results indicate that use of the system will allow successful traceback of diseased animals to the herd of origin — a great asset in keeping swine free of disease.



Tattoos used in the test swine identification program consists of six digits. The top three letters indicate the market and the digits at the bottom indicate the lot number.

NOTICE TO ALL PORK PRODUCERS!
SPECIAL NEWS CONFERENCE ON HOG CHOLERA
Sunday, Dec. 17th 1:00 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS
DR. HOMER S. FORNEY
 PENNA. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
 Bureau of Animal Industry
MARK NESTLEROOTH
 President-Penna. Pork Producers Council
MELVIN HUBER
 President-Lancaster
 County Swine Producers Ass'n.
CHRIS KUNZLER
 Kunzler & Co., Inc. Meats

1580 ON YOUR DIAL
1580 WHEX
 THE PENNA. FARMERS STATION

ON DISPLAY NOW!

TWO GREAT NEW UTILITY TRACTORS

- 40 pto HP and 52 pto HP models (gas and diesel)
- Lightning flash shift (8F-4R speeds) synchromesh transmission
- Planetary final drive
- Big, rear fuel tank—new "walk-through" styling
- Big capacity live independent hydraulics
- Precision draft control 3-point hitch with infinite rate response
- Hydrostatic power steering, adjustable seat, Dyna-Life® clutch, hydraulic wet disc brakes
- Options include twin-shaft 540/1000 RPM IPTO and differential lock.

ALL NEW INTERNATIONAL 454 and 574
 WAIVER OF FINANCE NOW AVAILABLE.

MESSICK FARM EQUIP.
 ELIZABETHTOWN 367-1319

COPE & WEAVER CO.
 NEW PROVIDENCE 786-7351

KAUFFMAN BROS.
 MOUNTVILLE 285-5951

C. B. HOOBER & SON
 INTERCOURSE 786-8231

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER
 Sales and Service
 EPHRATA 733-2283