

# Garbage Feeders In Trouble, Hogmen Told

The state Bureau of Animal Industry is expected to take steps to outlaw the feeding of garbage to hogs in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Homer S. Forney, who is directing the state's hog cholera eradication program for the Bureau of Animal Industry, told a group of farmers Thursday night in Lancaster that most outbreaks of the hog sickness can be traced at least indirectly to garbage feeding operations.

When asked if the state would

consider outlawing garbage feeding to hogs, Dr. Forney answered, "It's going to be recommended."

The veterinarian said there are presently 56 licensed garbage feeders in Pennsylvania, feeding 12,000 market hogs. Twenty-one of these, he said are in the vicinity of Philadelphia.

Three cases of hog cholera were confirmed in Pennsylvania herds in December after severe outbreaks of the disease in New

Jersey.

Dr. Forney emphasized to his farmer audience that hog cholera is a highly contagious virus disease that absolutely cannot affect humans.

The disease is easily spread through uncooked garbage, animal waste, cattle trucks and through direct contact, he said.

State law requires that all garbage fed to hogs first be cooked at 212 degrees for a minimum of 30 minutes to destroy the residual virus, parasitic larvae and disease organisms.

However, Dr. Forney pointed out that with some garbage wrapped in plastic bags, even properly cooked there could be material inside the plastic bags that never gets hot enough to destroy the hog cholera virus.

"It can be eradicated," he said, "All it takes is one more big push and we're home."

Pennsylvania's recent outbreaks of the disease, that is almost fatal to hogs, were traced

back to the New Jersey infection and Dr. Forney said he is now optimistic the state will again officially attain "hog cholera free" status.

"If you have sick hogs, think hog cholera first, and report it to your veterinarian," Dr. Everett Denlinger, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry, told the farmers.

Dr. Denlinger also warned hog producers that a vaccine known as "BVD" should not be used in place of hog cholera vaccine.

John Henkel, of Strasburg R1, representing local hog producers, said as a member of a panel that he sees hog cholera not as a hog problem but as "a people problem."

Henkel said the problem was one of someone trying to "make a fast buck," adding that, "one fellow can plaster hog cholera all over the country."

He said an identification program marking all hogs so their origin could be traced would go a long way in helping locate

## Production-Spending Survey Upcoming

A nationwide survey during February will indicate how farmers allocated their production expenses during 1972.

Trained enumerators from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Statistical Reporting Service (SRS) will interview the sample group of 2,000 farmers about spending for major groups of inputs. Each will also be asked for detailed information on purchases in a few of the groups, including outlays for fuel, fertilizer, repairs, taxes, wages, and other production items.

SRS plans to conduct its farm expenditure surveys in five-year cycles. The first four years SRS will focus on production expenses; the fifth year data will be collected on family living expenses.

The information is needed to update the relative importance, or weight, of the various commodities and services used in computing the index of prices paid by farmers and to provide more current data for estimating net farm income.

The prices paid index and net farm income provide guidelines for farm policy and administration by indicating farmers' purchasing power and relative position in the Nation's economy.

the source of disease outbreaks.

Dr. Forney assured him that identification for hogs is coming, since packers and farmers are both asking for it.

Speaking for the meat packer, Christ Kunzler Jr. said his firm had a relatively short supply of pork during the ban of hog sales in the state.

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