

Hog Cholera Quarantine Lifted in New Jersey

The USDA announced recently the lifting of a federal hog cholera quarantine in New Jersey. This action followed steps taken to stop a series of hog cholera outbreaks in the state.

New Jersey hogs—except those still under state quarantine—may now be moved interstate or be sent to a federally-approved market for slaughter in New Jersey (pork products are moved interstate from such markets).

Officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) said that 19 New Jersey herds considered possibly exposed to hog cholera will remain under state quarantine. These herds have been under continual surveillance by animal health officials for several weeks.

To be assured of their status, swine owners and state officials in New Jersey have agreed to a series of tests by USDA to determine if the exposed herds

are infected. Those confirmed as infected or dangerous will be destroyed and disposed of safely to prevent spread of infection.

The testing already underway includes laboratory analysis of blood taken at 3-week intervals from a representative number of swine in each herd. Scientists at the National Animal Disease Laboratory (NADL) in Ames, Iowa are performing serum neutralization (SN) tests to reveal any significant levels of hog cholera antibodies in the blood serum.

All 19 herds, totaling about 19,000 swine, will be carefully monitored during the 3-week interval between blood testing. Pigs of questionable health will be examined with tonsil and other tissue samples taken for laboratory analysis.

APHIS officials emphasized that hog cholera is a disease of swine only and does not affect

man or other animals. Caused by a virus, hog cholera is totally unrelated to Asiatic cholera, a bacterial disease of humans.

The quarantine of New Jersey was lifted on the recommendation of federal and state animal health officials. All swine herds within a 5-mile radius of all

outbreaks were inspected at least twice and no further disease was found. The last confirmed case of hog cholera in New Jersey was diagnosed January 2.

The feeding of raw or improperly cooked garbage to swine was a primary cause of hog cholera in New Jersey and other

eastern states. Traces of hog cholera virus may be present in pork trimmings contained in garbage or food waste fed to swine. Under present federal regulations, any swine fed raw garbage are prohibited movement in interstate commerce.

Chester Extension Offers Safety Instruction, Certification Course

As of January 1, 1968, it became illegal to hire youth outside the family 14-16 years of age, unless they have had safety instruction. A seven-week safety instruction and certification course is being offered to youth 14-16 years of age interested in farm employment.

The course will begin at 7 p.m. March 6 and 7 in the Atglen and Oxford areas. It is also being given to Vo-Ag students in school. If you plan to employ non Vo-Ag students on your farm, and are interested in having them attend this certification course, please have them call the Chester County Extension Office (696-3500) by March 5 for pre-registration and information. First preference will be given to 14-16 year-olds—second preference to 13 year-olds.

Certified youth satisfactorily completing the course will not necessarily be expert tractor drivers and machinery operators; they will likely need on-the-job supervision and training.

The course only acquaints youth with the hazards of farm jobs and vaguely exposes them to

the operation of tractors and machinery. It also makes them eligible for legal employment by you to perform many ordinary farm jobs which are considered hazardous. In general, these jobs include:

1. Driving a truck or a tractor over 20 horse power, or operating most farm machinery.

2. Handling most pesticides, anhydrous ammonia, power saws, and explosives.

3. Working around self-unloading wagons and bins, blowers, augers, lifts, boars, bulls, or stud horses.

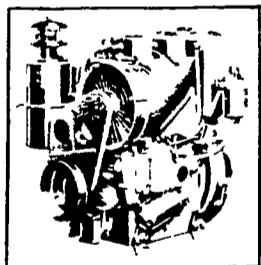
4. Working at heights over 20 feet, in gas-tight enclosures, or handling logs over 6 inches in diameter.

Your own children, and those for whom you are custodian, can legally perform these hazardous jobs on your farm with being certified.

Plants

Brighten the interior of your home or office with luxuriant green foliage plants. Extension Horticulturist W. Robert Fortney at The Pennsylvania State University says living plants in a room should be blended into the interior decoration scheme. Some of the more popular plants you might consider are philodendron, pothos and rubber plants. These will grow well under artificial light in an office or well-lighted area in your home.

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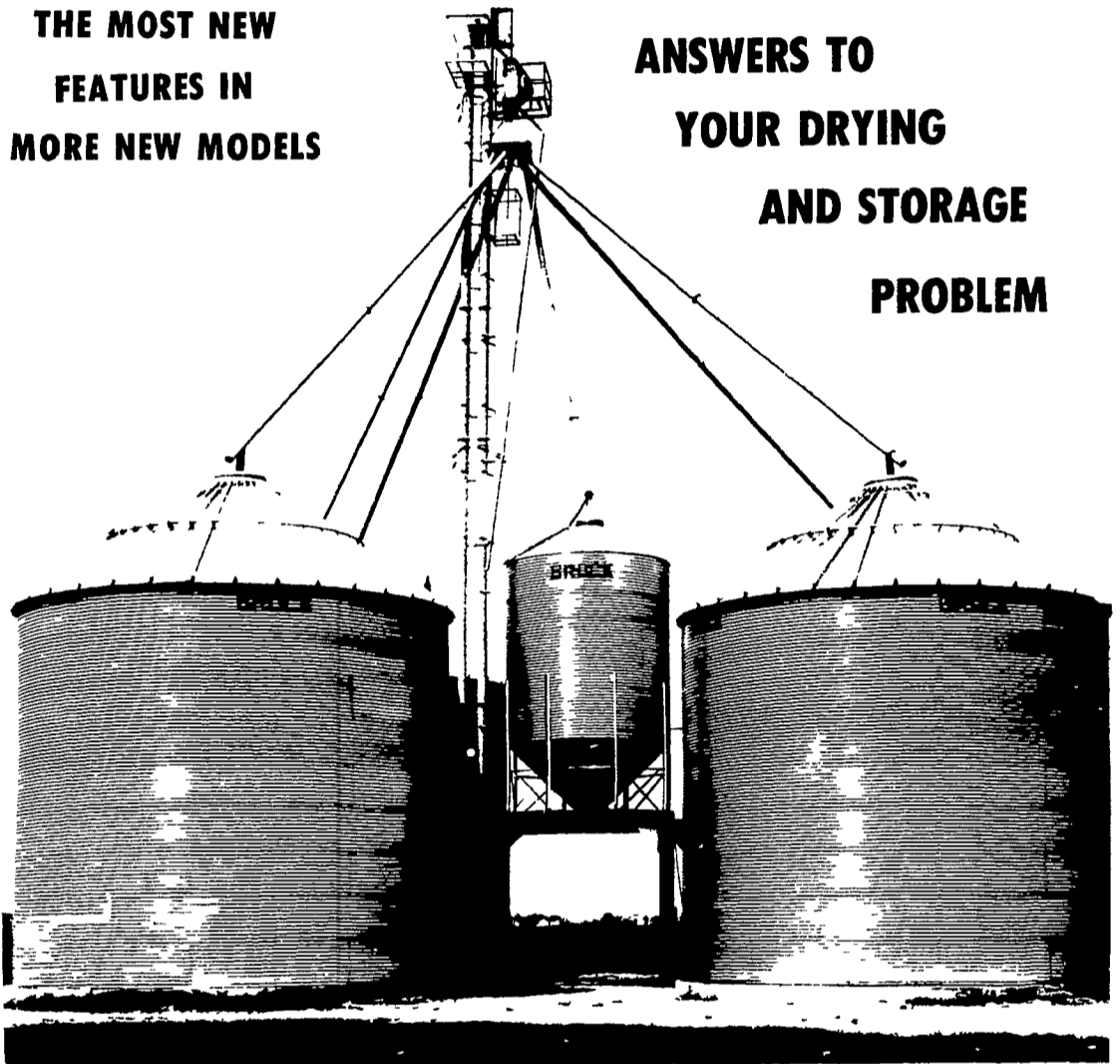
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