

HIGH PRESSURE WASHING OF POULTRY HOUSES AND VEAL PENS

BARRY L. HERR

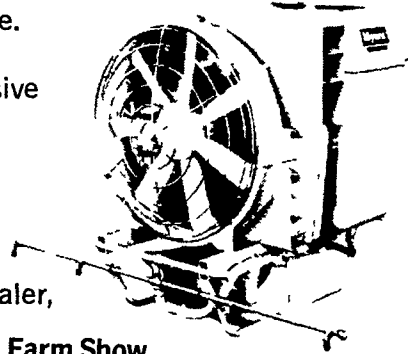
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'Million Dollar' Hogs - A Blow To Pork Industry

Who ever heard of two pigs costing an estimated \$1 million?

State and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) veterinary officials concerned with hog cholera eradication recently came up with an estimate nearly that large.

No, it wasn't the price paid for two grand champion purebred boars. Rather, it was the approximate cost to the American swine industry for the marketing of two scrub hogs that initially sold for 50 cents each, according to Dr. Francis J. Mulhern, Administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Dr. Mulhern a veterinarian, also serves as Chairman of the Secretary of Agriculture's advisory committee on hog cholera eradication.

Barring unforeseen developments, 49 states will be classified as "hog cholera free" by mid-January 1974. But the hog cholera advisory committee - comprised of 12 business and professional people with excellent knowledge of swine health - recently issued a warning about "culls" or "junk hogs".

According to Dr. Howard W. Dunne from Pennsylvania State University, a member of the advisory committee, the marketing of culls has recently become financially rewarding to some hog traders and dealers. Other than scrubby appearance, these hogs may show no telltale signs of infection. Yet, they can be disease carriers, capable of silently spreading infection.

The risk of culls spreading hog

cholera is not as great if they go direct to slaughter without coming in contact with other swine destined for sale as feeder and breeder animals. Rather, the invitation for trouble comes when cull hogs are diverted from slaughtering plants to farms or feedlots, Dr. Dunne notes. Swine herds at these locations are highly susceptible to hog cholera.

The two 50-cent hogs in question were diverted from a slaughter - for a little extra fattening - in the fall of 1972. They wound up costing state and federal governments over \$100,000 in indemnity payments alone, to compensate producers for swine herds that had to be destroyed because of hog cholera.

"Ultimately, the cost was more like \$1 million", said Dr. Mulhern, "if all losses to the swine industry - direct and indirect - are counted. For instance, feeder pig producers in the Southeast find their main buyer markets in corn-producing states of the Midwest. In 1972, hog cholera quarantines in the Southeast and Midwest curbed this normally huge market flow for weeks, while emergency eradication measures were in effect.

"Merely passing more state or federal marketing regulations won't solve the problems", Dr. Mulhern warns. "It's going to take a change of attitude by many in the swine industry. Instead of viewing culls as the potential source of a few more pennies of profit with a little extra fat on their bones, we've got to treat them for what they really are... potential disease factories... and get rid of them accordingly.

"In other words, we need concerted pressure from every segment of the swine industry to

stop the diversion of cull pigs from market for a few added weeks of feed. Enough pressure must be brought to bear upon the few who engage in this practice to make sure that all culls go direct to slaughter... and nowhere else!"

Dr. Dunne and other advisory committee members agree on the need to apply this pressure, indicating the industry as a whole will pay if we don't. For the average hogman who personally strives to maintain a healthy herd, that cost can be extremely high if hog cholera strikes across the neighbor's fence.

Speaking for the advisory committee, Dr. Mulhern said, "let's begin to finish the hog cholera eradication job NOW... once and for all!"

New Machine Speeds Solid Waste Retrieval

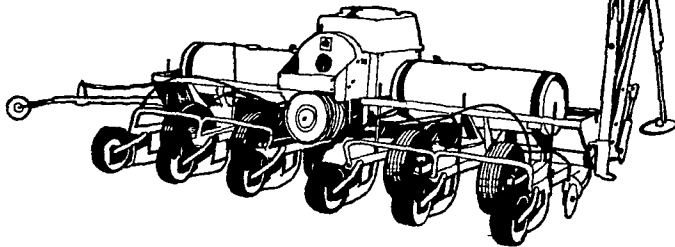
A new machine capable of sorting 10 tons of shredded solid wastes per hour has been introduced by the Wemco Division of Envirotech Corporation, Menlo Park, Ca.

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