

# No Hog Cholera in Past Six Months

There have been no reports of hog cholera in the United States during the past six months, reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). This is the longest known period without such a case since the disease, which affects swine only, was first

recognized in this country in the early 1830's.

According to the agency's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the last case occurred in Indiana during the 1972 outbreak, which also affected swine in several other

midwestern and southeastern states. Nearly \$1 million was paid in federal and state indemnities to compensate Indiana producers for the approximately 20,000 head of swine which had to be destroyed because of the

disease.

Since the national eradication program began in late 1962, New Jersey, North Carolina and Texas are the only states which have not achieved a "hog cholera-free" status. In order to do so, a state must

go twelve months with no cases.

Dr. Ernest E. Saulmon, deputy administrator of APHIS Veterinary Services, said that Indiana lost its "free" status during the 1972 outbreak. However, in that it had once been so designated, it was eligible and restored

to the "free" status Dec. 28, six months, rather than twelve, after the disposal of the last infected herd.

Hog cholera was found in only 16 swine herds in the U. S. in 1973. This compared to 205 in 1972. Despite this progress, however, Dr. Saulmon urged hog producers and others in the swine industry to remain alert for any suspicious illness in hogs, and to "suspect hog cholera first."

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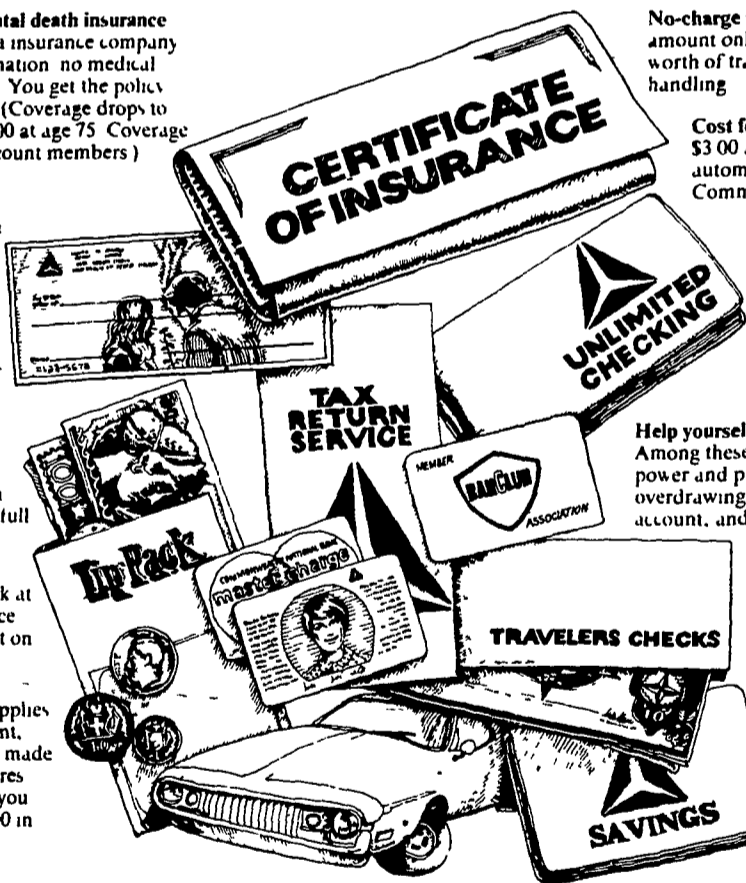
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Gerald Metzler

### Christiana Youth Will Work Abroad

In a recent bulletin from the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia, it was announced that Gerald Metzler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Metzler, Christiana, RD1, has been accepted to participate in the FFA Work Experience Abroad program this summer.

The program is an international educational exchange activity involving the Future Farmers of America and rural youth organizations of 20 other countries. Each participant's "visit" lasts 6 months and affords him an opportunity to exchange ideas in agriculture as well as in other areas of interest.

Currently serving as State Treasurer of the Pennsylvania FFA Association, this Octorara graduate has served in local and county positions also. Gerald has received numerous awards for his work within the organization in areas of Production Enterprise projects and Dairy Showmanship.

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