

Hog

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the earlier state order.

By Wednesday hog cholera had also been confirmed in the two New England states with teams of USDA veterinarians racing to the scene.

As many of the hogs raised in New Jersey are shipped to packing plants in Philadelphia and eastern Pennsylvania, Dr. Everett E. Denlinger, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry in this state, imposed a statewide embargo on the movement and sale of all swine from New Jersey into Pa.

Although Denlinger could not be reached for comment this week, his associate Dr. Forney told the office that the embargo would stay in effect until the hog cholera situation was under control.

"At present we have had no reported cases," Forney noted on Thursday, "but we are still keeping our fingers crossed."

Forney explained that it was a little too early to tell if the virulent disease might have slipped across the border. "Several auctions in the state receive hogs from New Jersey," the official stated, "we're currently trying to trace hogs movements from the affected area."

Penn Packing located in Philadelphia receives the bulk of slaughter hogs from New Jersey, Forney explained, and the embargo will probably decrease the number of hogs running through that plant this week.

Other local auctions being watched include the facilities at Perkiomenville, Quakertown and in Leesport.

Under the federal quarantine slaughter animals could be shipped if they were deemed healthy but with the state embargo, no hogs will be accepted into the state from those infected areas until the disease is under control and eradicated.

Officials are not certain yet how the disease got started and where it might have come from but USDA and state agriculture teams have been working constantly since early this week trying to track down possible leads.

"We can't say yet just where the hog cholera came from," Werner Hietsch, a USDA official working in the New Jersey area stated on Thursday. "Teams have been working constantly since the first cases were confirmed but no substantial evidence has been found."

Maryland officials noted in a press release on Monday that health workers in that state had revealed that hogs from 11 herds had been recently shipped into the infected areas. Although there is no evidence to prove that the Maryland hogs may have seeded the cholera it is still being extensively checked.

Hog cholera cannot be contracted by humans but it is extremely contagious among swine and is usually fatal. The last outbreak of the disease in the United States occurred in Texas last July. The same area in New Jersey, now affected by the hog cholera, experienced the same disease in 1972. During that seige, the disease spread into several other New Jersey counties and into Pa. resulting in the destruction of 30,000 head of swine.

There is no effective way to control the disease and thus affected herds must be destroyed under the federal law. Indemnity can be paid for the swine but is 100 percent federal money. According to Werner Hietsch the indemnity is paid according to "fair market price and weight of the animals."

During a telephone interview on Thursday, Hietsch noted that although no purebred herds had even been affected, the increased value of the swine would be considered in indemnity payments if necessary.

In a release provided late last week, Denlinger, urged all swine producers in Pa. to keep accurate records on all hogs coming into their herds. "Sales and purchases should be recorded so that swine can be traced rapidly to the herd of their origin," he warned. The official also instructed all swine producers to report any sick animals to the Dept. of Agriculture or their veterinarian.

Signs of the disease include fever, loss of appetite, staggering gait and possible high death losses.

The USDA has set up a hotline for producers to use in reporting sick hogs. They should call 609-931-4566.

Let us never forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man.

DANIEL WEBSTER

E-town young farmers

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awards from Hoffman Seeds. Dale Hiestand, Bainbridge R1, was the first place winner in the shelled corn contest and received seed corn from the P. L. Rohrer Company.

Keynote speaker for the evening was Donald Hershey, member of the Manheim Young Farmers. Hershey congratulated the young farmers for having gained membership increases during their first full year.

"It is good to see so many people involved in the young farmer program," Hershey noted. "I was in on the planning stages of the organization and it is quite an accomplishment for you to have come this far."

Hershey, an active member of the PFA and Manheim area farmer, spoke on the challenges that farmers will be facing in the future.

"Agriculture is America's greatest success story," Hershey stated, "but it

didn't come without a lot of hard work and effort."

"It meant people sticking together and working for a common cause and we have to keep that spirit."

The Manheim farmer explained that technology had aided agriculture in this country and noted that today a farmer can feed 50 other people.

"Many people don't understand that a farmer probably works about 100 hours a week and combined with ingenuity and effort has been able to produce great surpluses of food."

Hershey chided the urban consumers for arguing about food prices. "Food has gone up but when you compare its increase to everything else, it seems relatively small," he explained. "Food has increased five percent but look at other luxuries."

Commenting further on food prices, Hershey told the audience that compared to other countries, America had adequate food supplies with lower prices and

produced easier. "In the United States a working person can earn enough money in 13 minutes to buy eggs but in Japan it takes one hour and 40 minutes for the same goods."

Hershey concluded his talk

by reassuring the farmers that each individual has to have faith while also being a fatalist. "If they don't restrict our acreage they can't reduce our production," the farm leader noted. "We'll be faced with many challenges in the future but if we work together, farming can be a good way of life."

Fulton Grange meets

Fulton Grange 66 met in regular session on February 23 with Master Thomas Galbreath presiding. The program was provided by Boy Scout Troop 130. Rev. Dale Miller, Scoutmaster, spoke on the purpose and activities of the troop and several of the boys reported on camps they had attended and activities they had participated in.

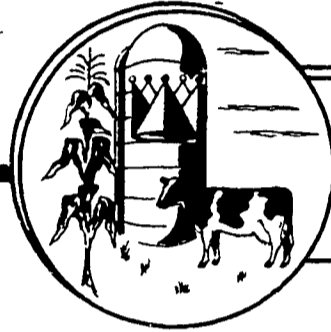
A donation was given to Meals on Wheels. Mrs. Dorothy Stauffer suggested the secretary write to Penn Dot and township supervisors concerning the intersection of Routes 272 and 372, asking that a study be made of the situation.

Cherry pie contest winners

were named as follows for cherry crum pie: Mrs. Dorothy Stauffer, first; Mrs. Emma Rhoades, second; and Mrs. Joyce Holloway, third. Winners for her double crust cherry pie was Mrs. Sylvia May.

A date of April 3 was set for the annual turkey supper with tickets remaining at \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children.

The next meeting, March 8, will feature a bicentennial program. Everyone is urged to bring old maps and atlases of the area. Mrs. Doris Brown will speak on trees in history.



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