

## Amer. Farm. Bureau plans 60th annual meeting

PARK RIDGE, Ill. - Ronald Reagan and Ambassador Robert S. Strauss, President Carter's special representative for trade negotiation and special counselor on inflation, will be principal speakers at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 60th Annual Meeting in Miami Beach, Florida, January 14 to 18, 1979.

Reagan, former governor of California, and Strauss

will speak before general sessions at which some 10,000 farmers and ranchers are expected. Convention headquarters will be the Fontainebleau Hilton Hotel, at which many convention activities will be held. General sessions will be at the Miami Beach Convention Center.

The meeting gets underway with the preliminaries of the Young Farmers and Ranchers

annual "discussion meet," on Sunday, January 14, followed by the traditional vesper service that afternoon. Other opening day activities include the Farm Bureau Women's voting delegate dinner and the annual Farm Bureau amateur talent program for ages 17 to 30.

First general session, at which Reagan will speak, will be Monday morning,

January 15. Allan Grant, AFBF president, will make his annual address the same morning. The afternoon of that day will be devoted to special conferences on livestock, poultry, cotton, soybeans, dairy, Farm Bureau Women and organization. Finals in the "discussion meet" will be held that evening, followed by Young Farmer and Rancher awards.

Tuesday's general session will be addressed by Strauss and Richard W. Owens, AFBF chief administrator and secretary. Special conferences will be held Tuesday afternoon on sugar, horticultural crops, peanuts and tobacco, wheat and feed grains, natural and environmental resources, local affairs, SAFEMARK services and insurance.

The awards and recognition program will be held Tuesday night. Entertainment will be the 1979 premiere performance of The Greatest Show on Earth, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Business sessions of the official voting delegates get underway Wednesday morning and conclude at noon Thursday, January 18.

## Pa. now swine brucellosis free

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania was recognized as a Swine Brucellosis-Free state October 24 by the United States Department of Agriculture, according to State Agriculture Secretary Kent Shelhamer. The commonwealth became the 15th state to be recognized as free of this costly swine disease.

Shelhamer called the validation "another positive step in our continuing program of animal health. Pennsylvania has developed as a national leader in the location and eradication of diseases which can cause economic disaster in the agricultural community," he said.

"The validation is the

result of years of dedication and hard work by the Agriculture Department, veterinarians and the hog industry of Pennsylvania," he said. Pennsylvania has a growing swine industry, with over 92,000 head of breeding swine and nearly 800,000 market swine on feed.

Pennsylvania animal health officials validated all 67 counties in the state by testing all herds with breeding stock and by surveillance for the disease through testing sows and boars at slaughter under the Market Swine Testing Program.

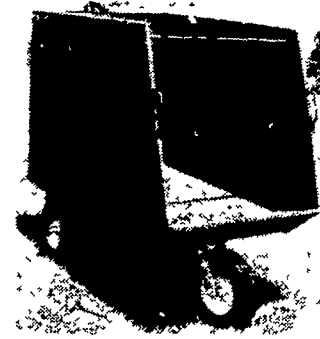
Brucellosis in swine is a bacterial disease caused by the organism *Brucella suis*. The disease can be transmitted to humans as un-

dulant fever. About 50 percent of the annually reported cases of undulant fever are traced to contacts with infected swine.

Other states which have been validated Brucellosis-free include Colorado, Iowa, Main, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Validation status is maintained in these states by carrying out required procedures in locating and eliminating infection which could be introduced by swine imported from other states.

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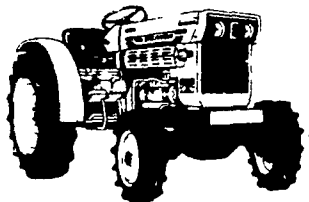
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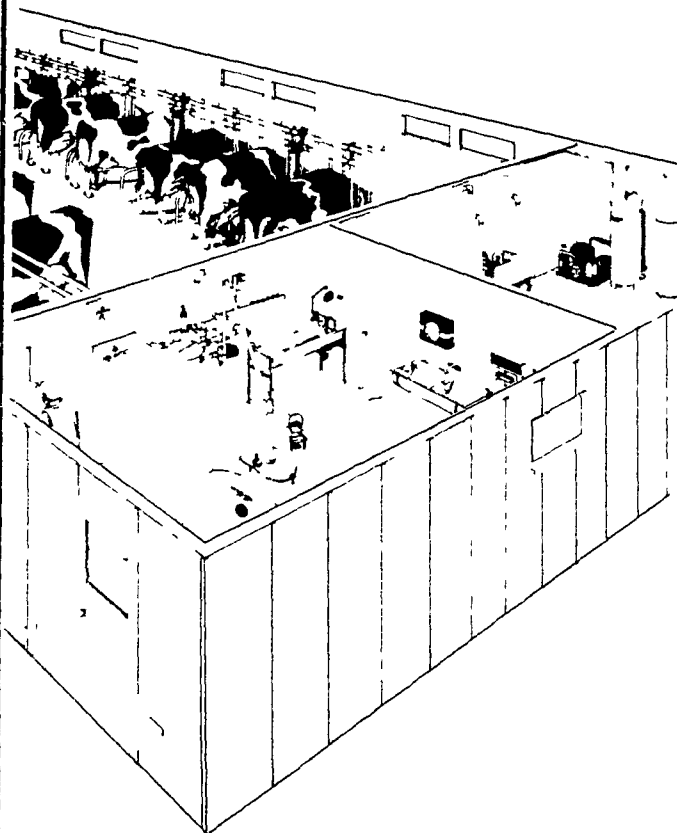
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