

Legislation introduced to stop garbage-feeding swine

DES MOINES, Ia. — Legislation has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to prohibit the feeding of garbage to swine unless the garbage has been processed to destroy disease causing organisms.

The legislation, S2162 and HR 6593, has the support of the National Pork Producers Council, which considers these bills very important at

this time because of the threat of African Swine Fever entering the U.S.

ASF is present in the Dominican Republic and Haiti and recently reoccurred in Cuba. While Cuban officials have announced it has been eradicated and there is an active eradication program in the Dominican Republic, the disease remains unchecked

in Haiti. The large number of refugees coming from Haiti to Florida is cause for special concern, C. Donald Van Houweling, NPPC Director of Government Affairs.

ASF is spread through scraps of meat from infected or carrier swine that get into garbage which is later fed to swine. Therefore, it is essential that garbage be heated to a temperature high enough to kill the infecting organisms, since there is no known cure or vaccine for the disease.

"While this legislation will not prohibit the feeding of garbage, as NPPC would have preferred, it is important for the U.S. government to be able to support the states in the regulation of garbage feeding," Van Houweling said. Some states have laws which prohibit feeding garbage to swine, he explained.

"The bills do not preempt those state laws which prohibit garbage feeding, but provide for the state and federal governments to cooperate in the enforcement of laws and regulations on ASF," he

said.

If ASF did enter the U.S., the cost of eliminating the disease, even from a small area, is estimated at \$7.3 million. If the disease became widespread and took ten years to eradicate, total cost could be \$5 billion,

according to a University of Minnesota study. ASF would also cause increased consumer prices for pork and a loss of pork exports.

"Now that there is action in both houses, the chances for this legislation to be enacted this year are greatly

improved," Van Houweling said.

"With the indication other major farm organizations besides NPPC, are supporting these bills, it does not seem likely there will be significant opposition," he concluded.

Soil resource map from Penn State

UNIVERSITY PARK — Locations and descriptions of 153 soil groups in Pennsylvania are available in the form of the Land Resources Map of the Commonwealth, published by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State

Presenting land resources in graphic form, the map is unlike anything published previously for Pennsylvania. It brings together factors of soil depth, drainage, available moisture, and productive capacities of soils.

Multiple patterns and colors are used to portray the 153 soil groups—coded

and symbolized for identification. Each soil unit or group is evaluated by 16 characteristics. The more important characteristics are depth, soil drainage environment, geological source of soil material, available moisture, planting rooting zones, and dominant crop production.

Copies are available for the \$3.25, including tax and postage, from Land Resources Map, Box 6000, University Park, Pa. 16802. Make check or money order payable to The Pennsylvania State University.

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(Continued from Page C31)

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COLUMBIA, Mo. — A new handbook on the use of solar energy and grain drying is now available.

"Low Temperature and Solar Grain Drying" was prepared under the direction of the solar energy subcommittee of the Midwest Plan Service.

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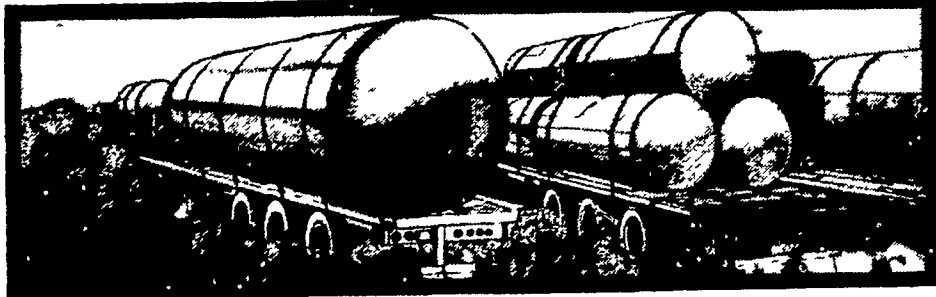


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