

## Swine shows

(Continued from Page A.1)

Based on the meeting's discussion and debate, PDA drafted a letter of recommendation that alerted the county fair associations about the disease.

In the letter Van Buskirk said:

"Pseudorabies infection has been diagnosed in ten Pennsylvania swine herds and three additional premises have been quarantined because of exposure.

"Transmission of pseudorabies virus appears to be the result of direct nose-to-nose contact. Carrier hogs often appear normal but can shed virus when under stress.

"Other farm animals such as cattle, sheep, and dogs are highly susceptible but do not seem to spread the disease, perhaps because they succumb so quickly.

"Because pseudorabies is a serious threat to our swine breeder industry, the Bureau of Animal Industry recommends that no breeding swine be accepted for exhibition purposes until this outbreak is under control.

"Furthermore, Dr. John Cable, Chief of Swine Health Division, urges exhibitors of market hogs to be sure that these animals go directly to slaughter and that contact with other animals be kept to a minimum.

"In view of the recommendations, I hope your association will limit the exhibition of swine to market

and feeder classes. This moratorium should remain in effect until February 1, 1981, or until further notice."

Grumbine noted that he felt the state didn't have a hold on where the pseudorabies came from, and that the seven month moratorium would give PDA the time they needed to get the disease controlled.

"Unfortunately, the disease is easiest to control in the purebred swine," Grumbine said. "With a stroke of the pen, they just don't issue any health papers anymore."

Grumbine said he was upset about the way feeder pigs can "run up and down the East coast uncontrolled."

Even though the state has limited the breeding stock from public fairs and shows, he noted that a producer of breeding swine could still have an on-farm production show and sale.

"By not having a chance to take out livestock to the fairs and shows, we are losing the chance to advertise our product. And that isn't good for the swine industry.

"But if pseudorabies was contracted by a \$2000 dairy heifer at a large fair, it wouldn't do the industry any good, either. And it would mean an economic loss to people not connected with the swine industry."

Lebanon County's Leon Arnold, a purebred swine producer, said, "PDA is attacking the problem from the least likely place when

they put restrictions on breeding swine. Purebred breeders are careful not to have too much traffic on their farms."

Arnold said he felt that the state would only touch one percent of the hogs by cancelling purebred shows.

He pointed out that the PDA letter was only a recommendation, and that he understood that a show and sale could go on if there were blood tests done on the entries. He said their local Yorkshire Club show and sale, scheduled for July 31 and August 1, has the blood-testing requirement.

Grumbine's and Arnold's sentiments were echoed by McConaughy who said pseudorabies can be rough on the purebred herd

"Any time there is a disruption in showing our swine, there is an automatic disadvantage. However, we've got to get a handle on these diseases—we just can't let them run wild," he said.

McConaughy also agrees that feeder pig control is essential if the disease is to be checked.

"In not controlling feeder pigs—that's where we're making our biggest mistake yet. Those 300,000 pigs coming into the state from every direction are giving us 90-98 percent of our trouble.

"PDA's got the regulations to control the disease, but how do they enforce them on market hogs?"

McConaughy said the purebred breeder is paying the tariff for controlling pseudorabies.

"If we want to ship in an animal, we have to blood test

before the animal is shipped, and again after a 30 day isolation period. With feeder pigs, unless they're coming from a high incidence area, you never see a test."

Because of the potential disease problem that can be tied with showing hogs, McConaughy said his family hasn't exhibited breeding swine for about 6 years unless it's a show where the animals are sold and not brought home again. He noted there was too great a risk of infecting his dairy herd and the rest of his purebred Duroc breeding swine.

Lancaster Co producer John Henkel said the pseudorabies moratorium on showing breeding swine

gives the state time to evaluate the disease problem.

He pointed out that it was not considered to be a drastic disease situation, otherwise PDA would have shut down showing completely, including feeder pigs.

Henkel added one thing the disease outbreak has done is it's gotten farmers to ask questions of producers before buying swine

"There's a lot of apprehension, and people are more cautious when buying," he said. "But that's what should have been done in the beginning."

Henkel cautioned producers who have breeding stock and who

decide to bring in feeder pigs to be extremely cautious.

"Mixing feeder pigs with breeding stock is asking for trouble. With disease control being a problem, the producers who want feeders should make up their minds to stay just in the finishing end of the business."

Summing up the situation, Grumbine said he personally feels the state has the disease in check, but that they're giving themselves the seven month cooling off period to make sure they do

"With the market the way it is now, I'm not sure it couldn't have happened in a better year," he concluded.



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