

USDA blood survey to test for pseudorabies

LANCASTER — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is testing swine blood from federally inspected slaughter plants to determine how widespread pseudorabies is in this country, a USDA veterinarian said.

"Blood samples are being collected at federally inspected slaughter plants throughout the country," said James Downard, chief staff veterinarian for swine diseases for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "The samples will be tested for the presence of pseudorabies virus at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa."

"The blood samples will be collected at various intervals during the plants' operating

hours and will include samples from both market and breeding animals," Downard said. The survey began December 1 and will end February 15.

Pseudorabies — also known as Aujeszki's disease and "mad itch" — is a virus disease primarily affecting swine. Losses are highest in young pigs. It can also spread to cattle, sheep, dogs, cats and some wild animals, where it is almost always fatal.

Infected swine are believed to be the main reservoir of the disease, Downard said. It does not affect humans.

The survey results, in addition to establishing disease prevalence, will be used in estimating what the disease costs the swine industry. This information is vital to guide producers and state-federal animal health officials in formulating programs for the control and eradication of pseudorabies.

Data obtained from swine

tested in this survey will be compared to similar information obtained in 1974 and during 1977-78. Data in

1974 set the prevalence rate at 0.56 percent while the 1977-78 data showed the rate to be 3.73 percent.

The blood samples now being tested for pseudorabies will also be tested for hog cholera

African swine fever, Hasmophilus pluropneumonia and influenza, Downard said.



Census report

(Continued from Page E2)

Eighty-seven percent of the operators owned all or part of the farms they operated, with 15 million fully owned, 714,000 partly owned, and 313,000 operated by tenants.

Farming was the principal occupation of 13 million or 54 percent of the operators, while 1.2 million spent most of their work time at a nonfarm occupation.

Eighty percent of the operators who reported place of residence lived on the farm they operated.

U.S. farmers were younger on the average than in 1974, 50.1 years compared with 51.7. The youngest on the average, 48.8 years were in the North Central States, the oldest, 51.3, in the South.

Some 128,000 farms, five percent, were operated by women. The South had the greatest number, 69,000 or seven percent of its farms, the Northeast the least, 8,900 or six percent.

On a percentage basis, the North Central States reported fewest women operators, three percent.

Farm product sales of \$100,000 or more were recorded by nine percent or 224,000 farms, 588,000, 24 percent, sold \$40,000 or more, 895,000 had sales of \$20,000 or more, and 1.6 million had sales of less than \$20,000.

The improvements in completeness in the 1978 census were in two areas. The first was an expansion of

mailing lists used to send farmers their census report forms. The second was a door-to-door canvass of sample households in rural areas.

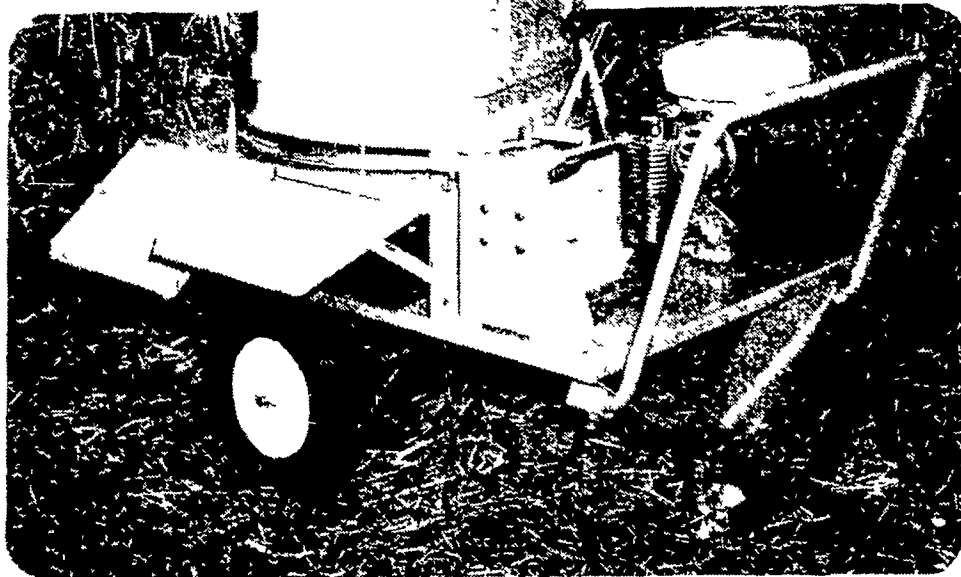
The results of this direct enumeration, when combined with the count by mail, allowed the Bureau to identify additional farms in the State which would have been missed under procedures used in the 1959 and 1974 censuses.

The Bureau estimates that the direct enumeration sample added 221,000 farms (averaging 69 acres and with average sales of \$4,911) to the 1978 mail census totals. Although characteristics of the additional farms are tabulated in the report for the U.S. and the States, they are not included in the totals published for each county.

Had 1978 procedures been used in the last previous census (1974), Bureau officials estimate that between 300,000 and 318,000 smaller farms would have been added to the 1974 U.S. total. The estimated total would have been between 2,614,000 and 2,632,000 farms in 1974 instead of the 2,314,000 enumerated under the procedure actually used.

A detailed description of the 1978 Census of Agriculture program compared with earlier censuses is available from the Agriculture Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

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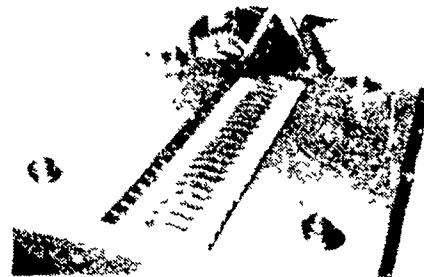
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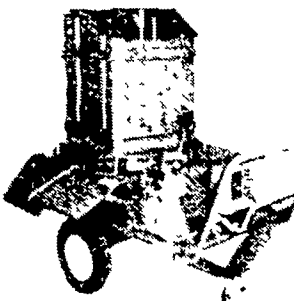
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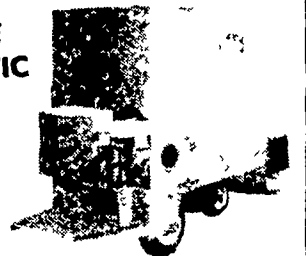
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