Pork Congress

(Continued from Page A1)
recent upsurge which has caused
30 herds to go into quarantine.

The state vet told the group the Department is encouraging producers with PRV in the herd to depopulate. He added the Bureau of Animal Industries is not planning to approve a pseudorables vaccine for use within Pennsylvania.

"Once a pig is vaccinated for pseudorables, it is impossible to differentiate between an infected hog and one that's had the vaccine. And, a vaccinated pig can be exposed to the virus and actually pick it up and become a carrier. This wouldn't be able to be diagnosed through blood testing because the pig would test positive for PRV regardless."

Van Buskirk informed producers a negative blood test for PRV should be done 30-days prior to any breeding stock being brought into Pennsylvania These hogs should be isolated before introducing them to the herd, he said, and retested within 15 to 30 days after arrival.

Market hogs that have been exposed to PRV must go directly to slaughter, noted Van Buskirk. And, any feeder pigs carrying pseudorabies virus must be fed out at a quarantined feedlot.

The PDA vet told the producers

the state wants to eradicate the disease, not just control it. He announced the federal government has introduced a first draft of suggested minimum standards for a national pseudorabies program, which could include an indemnity program, personnel, and research funds.

However, Van Buskirk was quick to point out, producers should not count on the funds to bail them out of this disease dilemna considering the current Washington administration's feelings on additional programs.

The PDA vet appealed to all the hog producers to cooperate in the effort to confine and eventually eradicate the disease. One step, he suggested, might include permanent identification on all hogs, such as branding or tatooing, so that hogs could be traced back to their point of origin

Current trends in the hog market were discussed by James Yergler, president of Hienold Hog and Cattle Markets Inc., Kouts, In-

"Hog prices in the future are going to be vulnerable," he said "But, we've got a strong demand for pork built into the market with last spring's low prices, so hog production should be profitable."

Just how profitable it will be will depend on the price of corn,



Re-elected PPC officers, Abe Fisher, president, right, and Elwood Houser, vice president, left, look over the evening's program with National Pork Producers'

Council Vice President John Saunders. Saunders runs a 120 sow farrow-to-finish operation in Osborn, Mo.

consumer demand for pork, and government export policies, he noted

Yergler encouraged the (Turn to Page A39)

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