

Pseudorabies increasing, but at slower rate

LANCASTER — The incidence of pseudorabies in swine has increased substantially since 1974, but at a slower rate over the past three years, according to a recently completed U.S. Department of Agriculture survey.

Testing of swine blood samples over a six-week period showed an 8.39-percent level of pseudorabies, compared with 3.73 percent found after a similar survey in 1977-78 and 0.56 percent in a 1974 survey.

Jim Downard, a veterinarian

with the Department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, points out, however, that the findings must be viewed with caution because the surveys may be biased by seasonal differences, increased use of vaccine and other factors.

"Tests cannot differentiate between vaccinated animals and those that are infected," he notes. "No vaccines were available in 1974. And although USDA-licensed vaccines were being used during both of the latter surveys, they

were used much more extensively during the past year or so."

Downard credits the slowing down of the rate of increase over the past three years to greater producer awareness of the disease and to enactment of state and federal movement regulations, along with the use of state quarantines on infected herds.

On May 17, 1979, federal regulations went into effect requiring that breeding stock be tested and found negative. On July

1, 1980, feeder pigs either had to be tested and found negative or originate in a state that has authority to quarantine herds where the disease is diagnosed or suspected.

Pseudorabies also called Aujeszky's disease, mad itch in cattle and infections bulbar paralysis—is a virus disease that primarily affects swine. Death losses are highest among young pigs. It is often fatal when it spreads to cattle, sheep, wildlife and dogs. The disease does not affect humans.

The survey results will be used as an aid 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 the current survey plus information on the costs to producers from pseudorabies was presented to the Pseudorabies Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on March 10 prior to the American Pork Congress in Kansas City, Mo., Downard said.

State corn, oat plantings should rise

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania farmers intend to plant more acres of corn and oats in 1981, but fewer acres of barley and soybeans. All hay and tobacco acreage will remain unchanged according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Intended acreage to be planted and percent change from last year as follows: corn, 1,830,000 acres, up two percent, oats, 375,000, up four percent, barley, 75,000, down six percent, soybeans, 100,000 acres, down 11 percent, all hay, 1,950,000 acres, unchanged, and tobacco,

13,000 acres, unchanged.

U.S. corn plantings are expected to total 84.0 million acres, fractionally less than last year.

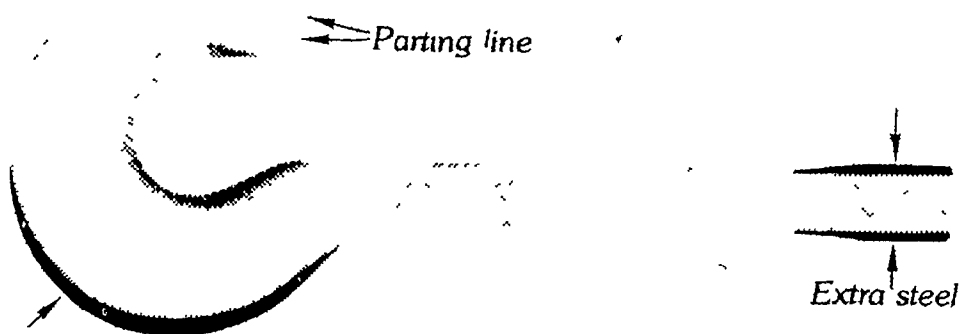
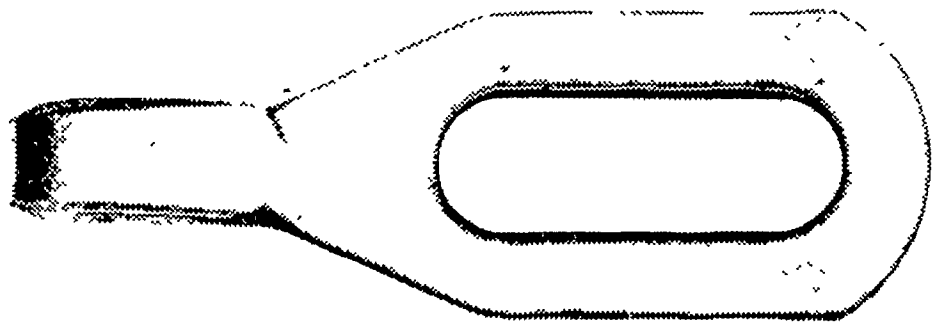
Soybean acreage of 69.8 million, will be down less than one percent.

All hay for harvest, at 61.1 million acres will be up three percent.

Tobacco acres will total 938,970, also up three percent. Acreage of oats will total 13.5 million, one percent more than last year.

Barley acreage, at 9.1 million, will be 10 percent greater than last year.

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