# Swine Fever program

# to get underway

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Haitian government and the International Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture has signed a formal agreement authorizing a multi-nation effort to eradicate African swine fever from Haiti, the only country in North America or the Caribbean where the disease is known to exist.

The United States, Canada and Mexico will provide funds and technical assistance for the eradication program, which will be administered by the International Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture.

Representing the U.S. Department of Agriculture at the signing ceremonies in Port-au-Prince was C.W. McMillan, assistant secretary of agriculture for marketing and inspection services.

The agreement was signed by Rene Destin, minister of agriculture, national resources and rural development for Haiti, and by Manuel Rodriguez, deputy general director for the International Institute for

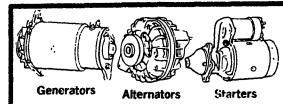
Cooperation in Agriculture. McMillan said the eradication program will cost in excess of \$17 million and require up to two years to complete. After eradication of the disease, he said, plans call for repopulation with hogs that are free of diseases and have a superior genetic background that will increase the number of pigs per litter and improve the quality of pork.

In 1971, African swine fever invaded the western hemisphere for the first time when it struck Cuba. That outbreak resulted in 400,000 hogs being destroyed. In 1978, the disease was found in Brazil and the Dominican Republic, and in 1979, in Haiti, which shares the Island of Hispaniola with Dominican Republic.

the Dominican Republic, with a loan from the Agency for International Development and technical assistance from USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Food and the Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, slaughtered its entire domestic swine population to eliminate the disease.

After completion of the slaughter program in September, 1980, U.S. pigs were placed in the country to verify that the disease had been eradicated. The Dominican Republic now is restocking with healthy pigs imported from the U.S. and Canada.

Earlier this year, USDA declared an animal health emergency because of the danger of African swine fever spreading from Haiti to this country. This action released funds for the disease's eradication abroad. The United States, Canada, Mexico and the International Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture developed the eradication project after the Haitian Government asked for help.

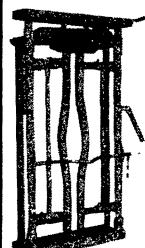


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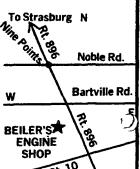
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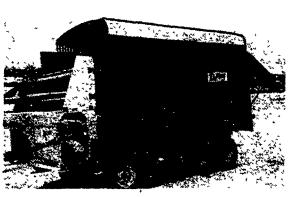


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The Coronation is held in conjunction with the All-American Dairy Show Recognition Banquet. A reception will be held in the Ballroom lobby at 5:30 P.M. and the banquet will begin at 6:30 P.M.

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