

African Swine Fever eradication progresses

DES MOINES, Iowa — The African Swine Fever eradication program in Haiti is progressing well, but slightly behind schedule, according to Don Van Houweling, director of Government Affairs for the National Pork Producers Council.

Van Houweling, who recently returned from the meeting of the international coordinating committee in Haiti, reported his findings to Richard Lyng, Deputy Secretary of USDA.

During that meeting, Van Houweling told Lyng that the main delay in the program is developing a plan for the indemnification of hog owners when the animals are eliminated as part of the eradication program. Details of the indemnification program will now be completed and ready for approval of the coordinating committee by February 1, 1982. Until that time, the eradication program will be on standby.

The Haitian government is conducting the eradication program with the cooperation of the International Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) and funds from the U.S., Mexico and Canada.

Van Houweling expressed the

importance of this eradication effort as a means of protecting the U.S. hog population from becoming infected. "African Swine Fever had never been in the Western Hemisphere until 1978 when it suddenly spread to the

Dominican Republic, Haiti and Brazil. The Dominican Republic has eliminated the disease, but Haiti, which occupies the other third of the island, is still infected. All of these areas are within several hundred miles of the mainland, making the spread of

ASE a serious threat and concern to pork producers," he said.

Van Houweling also expressed NPPC continued support of the eradication program, and his belief that the program will be successful in eradicating ASE.

Phila. packer gets \$5,000 penalty

PHILADELPHIA — Hillcrest Packing Co., Philadelphia, and its owner-president, Sam Kohn, have been assessed a \$5,000 civil penalty and ordered to stop violating financial, payment and record-keeping requirements of the Packers and Stockyards Act, a U.S. Department official said.

B.H. Jones, P&S administrator in Washington, said the respondents consented to the order and waived a hearing. They neither admitted nor denied the charges filed in an administrative com-

plaint.

In addition to the civil penalties, USDA Administrative Law Judge John A. Campbell ordered Hillcrest Packing and Kohn to cease and desist from:

- Purchasing livestock while insolvent, unless the full purchase price of the livestock is paid at the time of purchase in cash, by certified check, or wire transfer;
- Failing to pay, when due, the full purchase price of livestock;
- Issuing insufficient funds

checks in payment for livestock; and

— Sending checks in payment for livestock by mail without maintaining a corporate record containing written agreements for the mailing of checks.

Hillcrest Packing and Kohn were also ordered to maintain sufficient accounts and records to fully and

correctly disclose all significant transactions involved in their packing business, including records which show the corporation's financial condition.

The cease and desist order, like a permanent injunction, was issued to assure future compliance with the Packers and Stockyards Act.



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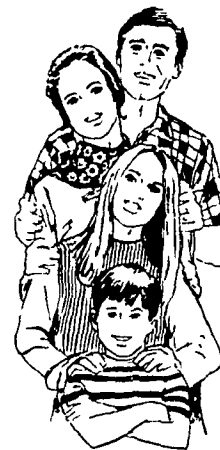

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