

Eradication program kills last pig in Haiti

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The last pig in Haiti is dead.

It was killed as part of the campaign to eradicate African swine fever from Haiti.

The project, known in Haiti as PEPPADEP, began killing off that country's entire swine population last May. By June 15 of this year, nearly 375,000 swine had been slaughtered, and the equivalent of \$9.4 million paid as compensation to owners, said James Downard, a veterinarian with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

"Once all the pigs are gone, the premises are cleaned and disinfected and eventually the swine population is replaced with disease-free hogs," Downard said.

"Killing all the pigs in Haiti was the most significant part of the campaign.

"African swine fever is a highly destructive virus disease that attacks only swine. There is no treatment, cure or vaccine for the disease," he said.

"Haiti was the last foothold of the disease in the Caribbean, where it represented a threat to swine production throughout the western hemisphere," he said. "Previous outbreaks in Cuba and the Dominican Republic have been eradicated."

PEPPADEP was established in July 1981 through an agreement between the Haitian government and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, an agency of the Organization of American States which administers the project. The United States, Mexico and Canada provide financial and technical support. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Agriculture are also providing technical assistance.

The National Pork Producers Council is playing an important role, particularly in getting pigs for the sentinel pig program and for repopulation, Downard said. Now that the country has been

cleaned of disease, pathogen-free pigs are being introduced to Haiti. These hogs are particularly sensitive to disease, and serve as sentinels to detect any virus that might remain.

"As in the earlier African swine fever eradication campaign in the Dominican Republic, the campaign in Haiti required destruction of the country's entire swine population as the only effective way to eliminate the highly contagious virus," Downard said.

"PEPPADEP officials recognized that this would be a difficult task," he said. "Swine were scattered throughout the mountainous countryside, and were usually raised in backyards in lots of one to five pigs. In addition to the difficult terrain, the project faced the lack of a veterinary organization in Haiti, language problems, shortage of trained personnel and misconceptions by the local population.

"PEPPADEP officials now face the crucial last stages of the

program," Downard said. "These involve cleaning and disinfection of infected swine premises, sweeping areas to assure that all pigs were found and slaughtered, and importing certified pathogen-free swine to test sites as a check against any remaining presence of the virus in Haiti.

"We expect that last stages of the eradication campaign to be completed by December of this year. If no further disease outbreaks occur in sentinel herds and other requirements are met, the country could be declared free of African swine fever by January 1984."

Del. gets Larvadex okay

NEWARK, Del. — Delaware poultry farmers have been granted an exemption allowing the use of an insecticide for control of flies in poultry layer houses.

Geier Stayton, Pesticide Supervisor for the Delaware Department of Agriculture, says Larvadex 0.3%, manufactured by Ciba-Geigy, has received approval from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The insecticide, which is premixed with feed, is only to be used for laying hens producing eggs for the consumer market.

Larvadex-treated feed cannot be used for broilers, or poultry that is producing eggs for hatching purposes.

We applied for the exemption on behalf of Delaware farmers because of the insecticides' effectiveness, said Stayton. "Any farmer who might be planning to use Larvadex, and has questions, should call our pesticide section. There are several restrictions and conditions ordered by the E.P.A."

The exemption is effective immediately. It expires December 31, 1983.



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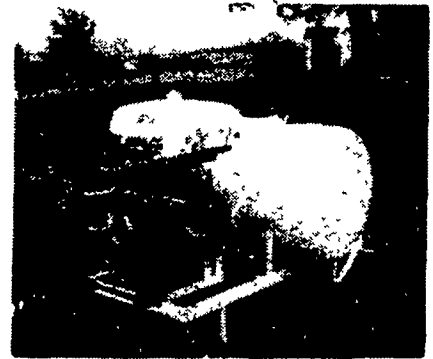


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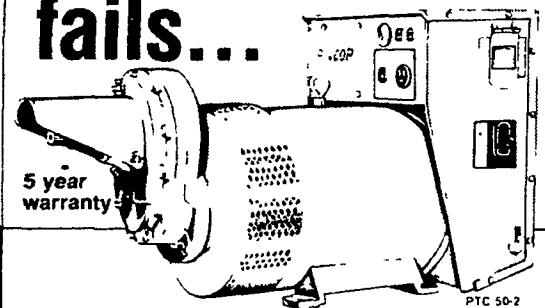
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