

Lucky break

(Continued from Page D2)

veterinarians and producers agree the AR-P product provides more thorough protection. If your herd is affected by rhinitis, it would be worth the time and money to invest in this bacterin."

Leptospirosis affects the kidneys. Unfortunately, it also results in aborted litters about two weeks prior to term. Litters that aren't aborted usually are born weak. The most popular Lepto vaccine contains five serotypes and is given at seven and three weeks prior to first breeding. After the first litter, injections may be given at breeding. Cost is roughly 17 cents a dose.

Parvovirus, formerly SMEDI, causes mummified fetuses, stillbirths and a reduction in litter size. The vaccine for this is fairly new and now is available in the same bottle as the five-way Lepto at a total cost of about 68 cents a dose.

The decision to vaccinate for Lepto and Pravo should be an individual one, the specialist says. "You may produce pigs for years and never have a problem. But after producers experience one of these diseases, they often wish they had vaccinated. That's understandable since litters will be affected, to some extent, for nearly four months."

Erysipelas has two forms — an

acute form accompanied by fever and red patches on the skin, and a chronic form causing joint inflammation. Many authorities believe that few pigs are affected by erysipelas. But the cost of protection is so low (six cents a dose) that most producers vaccinate anyway. A single injection is given, followed three weeks later by another for breeding animals. Immunity can then be maintained in the herd with annual injections.

TGE is a devastating disease that will dehydrate and kill nearly all the pigs in a farrowing house under two weeks of age. A commercial vaccine is available but not many producers use it, for several reasons. It's expensive, about \$2.50 a dose. Two doses must be given.

"Under normal conditions," Kephart says, "TGE may not strike very often — perhaps once every nine or 10 years. And after an outbreak you can manage the disease so that a herd will build its own immunity. So even though one group of sows is affected now, the next group will probably be OK if their litters aren't due for another two or three weeks."

E. coli scours are a problem in many herds. Severity can range from a minor annoyance to an expensive aggravation. A commercial product is available for developing immunity in a sow against four strains of E. coli. By

LANCASTER — A swine nutrition school for swine producers and feed company personnel is set for Dec. 20 and 21 at the Berks County Agricultural Center.

Sponsored by Penn State University and the Southeast Cooperative Extension Service, the school is designed for swine farmers and feed company personnel interested in expanding their knowledge in swine nutrition. Emphasis will be placed on nutrition record keeping, the basics of nutrition, feeding all types of swine, and developing least cost feeding programs.

The program will begin at 9:30

giving her an injection at six and three weeks before farrowing, she will pass the immunity to her piglets through the milk. At \$1.10 per dose, the vaccine is costly, but many producers claim success.

"This may not be a routine vaccine for your herd," Kephart says. "But it could provide some benefit if the strain of E. coli affecting your pigs matches one of the serotypes in the bottle."

In summary, Kephart says, vaccines can be a vital part of a herd health program. But they're not foolproof. Effectiveness varies among herds and even among pigs. "To get your money's worth, store a vaccine properly, maintain good nutrition, treat other disease problems and try to minimize stress," he adds.

a.m., Dec. 20, with registration followed by guest speakers and nutrition topics. The morning's topics include: Nutritional Record Keeping, Tom Painter, division swine service manager for Ralston Purina Company; Swine Nutrition - What is it?, Chet Hughes, Lancaster County extension agent, and Clyde Myers, Berks County extension agent; and What's in that Feed?, Nick Kohut, Albright's Mill Inc.

Tuesday afternoon topics are: Nutrient Imbalances - What Problems Do They Cause?, Matt Parsons, Penn State Extension swine specialist; and Nutritional Requirements of Swine, Cheryl Fairbairn, Chester County ex-

tension agent.

Topics on Wednesday begin at 10 a.m. and include: Sow Herd and Baby Pigs, Matt Parsons; Growing and Finishing Herd, Matt Parsons; Least Cost Rations, Jim Hogue, swine specialist for Youngs Inc.; and a producer panel on nutrition by swine producers Mike Moore and Don Schaeffer.

Deadline for reservations is Dec. 15. A \$16 fee is required which includes two lunches, a notebook, handouts and a booklet summarizing each topic discussed. A minimum of 15 people is required for the school, and reservations can be sent to Clyde A. B. Myers, Swine Nutrition School, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport, PA 19533, 215-378-1327.

Ram Lamb nominations to begin

UNIVERSITY PARK — Nominations for the 1984 Ram Lamb Testing Program will be accepted between Jan. 1 and March 31.

Purposes of the program are to provide a genetically sound testing program; to promote performance testing of sheep in Pennsylvania; to provide a common test for evaluating rate of gain, structural soundness, muscularity, condition and estimated carcass merit; and to provide an opportunity for purebred breeders and com-

mercial producers to purchase performance tested rams.

The program is sponsored by the Pa. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the Penn State Department of Dairy and Animal Science, the Pa. Sheep and Wool Grower's Association and the state breed associations.

For additional information on the program, please contact the PA Department of Agriculture, Meat Animal Evaluation Center, 651 Fox Hollow Road, State College, PA 16801.



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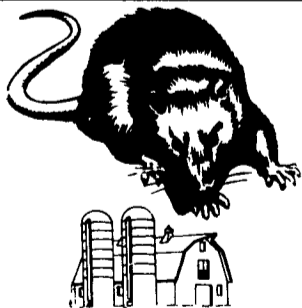
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