24-Lancaster Farming, Saturday, November 10, 1984

## **Pseudorabies**

(Continued from Page A1) dustry, other groups were invited because infection can be transmitted to other species and cause fatalities.

The sum total of some two hours of discussion on Wednesday was the calling of a second meeting for this coming Wednesday morning to precede an Animal Health Advisory Committee meeting scheduled at PDA at 1 p.m.

Dr. Max Van Buskirk Jr., of the BAI, told the Pork Producers to carry the ball to get the various livestock segments together and arrive at a concensus recommendation on how to proceed.

Repeatedly, at Wednesday's session Henkel and other pork producers asked Van Buskirk to take action on its request to rescind the current PRV program, particularly the mandatory depopulation. Wednesday's meeting had been called by PDA in response to a letter from the Pork Producers Council asking for that action.

"We are not prepared to do that today and will take it under advisement," Van Buskirk said. response would be to recommendations from the entire livestock industry and not just the Pork Producers Council.

Results of a survey of the economic consequences of depopulation were presented at Wednesday's session by the Lancaster-Chester Swine Producers Assn. The survey included 16 operations who have been depopulated or are in the process of depopulating. Ten are farrow to finish and six are farrow only.

The farrow to finish operations range from 80 to 300 sows and the farrow only from 100 to 370 sows.

Total sow inventory of all 16 operations is 3,312. Mark Nestleroth, spokesman for those hit by PRV, said he believed this total was approximately half of the 6,000 sows believed to be included in total depopulation efforts to date.

The survey cites a loss per sow unit average for both types of operations of \$494.38. Ranges of loss for individual operations were from a low of \$269 per sow unit to a high of \$878 per sow unit, depen-

ding on the operation and particularly its overhead costs.

"We have had several with losses over \$200,000," Nestleroth said.

"It's depopulating us as fast as it is the pigs," producers said at the session.

Producers also presented petitions from some 130 producers, representing about 7,000 sows, including a number with dairy operations too, calling for the rescinding of the mandatory depopulation.

The producers called for a middle-of-the-road approach of rescinding the mandatory depopulation, but keeping the quarantine program to identify infected herds but allow continued operation under quarantine to minimize financial losses.

Here are some comments by other participants in the session:

-Dr. John Cable, head of the swine division of BAI, outlined the history of PRV in Pa. since the initial outbreak in February of 1980. Quarantine figures showed a decline into last year when the mandatory depopulation and permit requirements were in-

stituted to deal with a relatively small number of continuing infected herds.

But this past winter – January through March – quarantines increased again until the total as of Nov. 1 still stood at 16 breeding herds and 13 feed lots, all of which are tied together. Ten of the breeding herds are pretty well depopulated, Dr. Cable said, and six have a ways to go yet.

But, the producers pointed out, the underground activities are clouding a true picture of the number of herds that are actually infected with PRV.

-Dr. Max Van Buskirk - "We found it has been difficult to contain the virus with just a quarantine program. We have the opportunity to eliminate it while it's still a manageable problem. The only way to avoid becoming another Iowa is to do something about bio-security - the cleaning and disinfecting of vehicles is a weakness in our program."

--Jerry Clemens, Hatfield Packing: "We've been catching flak from clean producers because of taking permitted animals. We will not take anyone new but we will continue to work with our current producers (those who must ship under permit). The permit regulations are very lax, particularly concerning the cleaning of trucks."

-Penn State Extension Vet Larry Hutchinson of the Pa. Veterinary Medical Assn.: "We've changed our position and now favor some use of a kill vaccine in known positive quarantined herds to help reduce the spread of the virus within that operation. We also favor some indemnity paid for breeding stock only in operations following an approved control program."

--Terry Sheetz, state representative and Lancaster County swine producer who has been hit with PRV: "I'm totally opposed to the elimination of any kind of quarantine program. Looking at the Avian influenza and the Scheps dairy payments, you could say we're being short-changed as hog producers. But we in the swine industry must take the initiative; we just can't keep going to the public trough for financial help from the state."









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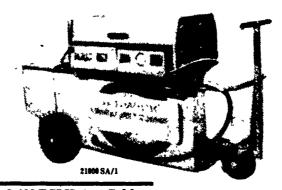


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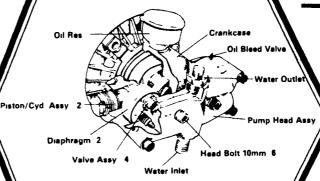
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