## USDA proposal would ease pseudorabies regulations

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Departmment of Agriculture is reproposing changes in federal shipping rules to allow the livestock industry more latitude for interstate movement of swine, a USDA official announced.

"Interstate shipping rules support the efforts of states that, independently or in cooperation with the federal government, seek to control the spread of pseudorables in swine. We want to keep these regulations as easy to

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follow as possible," said Bert W. Hawkins, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

"This is a republication of a proposal made two years ago," he said. "It is not a new initiative.

"Basically," he said, "it clarifies the current regulation, removes inconsistencies and brings the regulation in line with current industry practices."

The proposed changes would: -Provide an alternate method for removing swine herds from the 'known infected'' classification. -Provide an alternate method

for attaining or regaining herd 'qualified pseudorables-negative' status. -Provide an improved method

for monitoring herds vaccinated for pseudorables. -Provide an alternate way for

shippers to move swine interstate to approved livestock markets, feedlots and quarantined herds.

Hawkins said that five states-Iowa, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and North Carolinacurrently are cooperating with USDA in pilot projects evaluating various methods of combating the disease. Two other states-Ohio and Hawaii-also are conducting studies.

Pseudorabies, also known as Aujeszky's disease or "mad itch." is a virus disease generally fatal to newborn pigs. Swine can transmit the disease to most other warmblooded animals, but not to humans. With species other than swine, infected animals usually die, but do not spread the disease.

USDA first considered changing interstate shipping regulations in November 1982. Many of the suggestions received during the 1982 comment period are reflected in the current proposal. However, a new comment period has been established to give interested persons a fresh opportunity for providing additional information.

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