

Programs Established To Aid Dry Areas

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know at the time but we were certainly willing to find out. So that's how this article came about.

Pseudorabies

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for the \$100-per-head incentive payments, a producer must agree to depopulate breeding animals within 90 days of the quarantine date, and the virus must be eradicated from the farm within eight months of quarantine.

Henkel, who serves as chairman of the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council's PRV Task Force, says that producers need a longer period of time than mandated to minimize losses. "If you have to unload sows close to farrowing, you've lost the income from those baby pigs," says Henkel.

Another major point of contention concerns the use of vaccine. PDA officials have kept a tight rein on the use of vaccines for two reasons. First, serological tests are incapable of distinguishing between vaccinated and infected pigs, and second, vaccinated pigs are still able to shed virus. Since vaccinated swine may still test positive for the virus at the end of the required eight-month cleanup period, vaccination is not compatible with the incentive program's goals, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry's Dr. John Cable. The BAI veterinarian points out that, while his department will approve the use of vaccine in certain cases, its use makes producers ineligible for incentive payments.

On the other hand, pork producers argue that administering vaccine in the early stages of an outbreak will help to reduce losses. "I don't see where they gain that much," says Cable, "because the acute affects (of the virus) will be over in about 10 days."

Undoubtedly the biggest stumbling block in the state's program centers around money. Pork producers contend that \$100 is hardly adequate compensation for the loss of a brood sow. "If a reasonable indemnity would be involved, there would be no qualms about shortening the cleanup time," says Henkel.

Figures from a recently published Penn State study on the economics of pseudorabies eradication support Henkel's contention. "When the cost of lost production from down-time is added, the cost to the producer of a pseudorabies outbreak in Pennsylvania becomes \$459 per sow," the study concludes.

Ephrata-area producer Allen Burkholder is one of many Lancaster County farmers who has trouble swallowing what BAI is dishing out. His PRV problems actually began in 1976, when a disease diagnosed as a swine malady known as TGE hit his 200-sow farrow-to-finish operation. Four years later, though, PRV-infected feeder pigs were traced to sows sold by the Burkholder farm, leading the farmer to conclude that the TGE diagnosis had been incorrect. Because he determined that depopulation was not financially feasible, Burkholder kept raising hogs and had no more significant symptoms.

In 1982 he offered to depopulate if the Bureau would allow him to use vaccine on a new herd, but the proposal was refused. The following July Burkholder received a letter from Bureau director Dr. Max Van Buskirk stating that unless he submitted a plan that would enable him to eliminate PRV in his herd within eight months, permission to move swine from his premises for any

reason would be refused. Burkholder complied, farrowing all the pigs that he could within two months, which gave him six more months to ready them for market by the cleanup deadline.

Following cleanup and restocking he was back into full production by the end of 1984. Having been burned once, Burkholder instituted additional biosecurity measures. He eliminated the cats and dogs on the premises, and used only his own truck, which he cleaned and disinfected, to move animals to market.

Despite the precautions, his herd suffered a severe outbreak in April of this year. His losses included several hundred baby pigs, a few sows, three steers and a ram. Although Burkholder still isn't sure where the virus came from, he suspects that wildlife may have transmitted it to his herd.

"As soon as it was verified, we tried to get vaccine, but we couldn't," says Burkholder, noting that his objective was to reduce his baby pig losses as much as possible. Since the use of vaccine was contingent upon approval by BAI of an eradication plan, Burkholder submitted two plans, both of which were rejected on technicalities.

A third plan, submitted on June 18, that included a vaccine request, was deemed acceptable by BAI if Burkholder agreed to eliminate all serologically positive pigs within 18 months. The swine producer views this condition as unacceptable. "If I vaccinate for a year, the vaccine titer (the PRV antibody level in the blood) might not be gone by then," he stresses, adding that such a plan amounts to forced depopulation, a financially suicidal option based on the present lack of an indemnity safety net.

Another unrealistic stipulation, he says, is a request for a vaccination report within five days of each vaccination. Such a clerical burden becomes unreasonable when a producer is vaccinating baby pigs daily. Burkholder put a pencil to the cost of depopulating his herd based on Penn State's figure of \$459 per sow, which he considers to be about average. To recoup his total losses of nearly \$176,000 within a 15-year period would require a 31-percent increase in net profit—obviously out of the question, he points out.

"So we have no plan," he declares. "I intend to use vaccine, but it hasn't been cleared. I can't use it unless I sign the 18-month document, and I'm not signing that. I'll go on without vaccine before I sign that."

Burkholder believes strongly that the scope of the PRV problem in his area is being underestimated, since many infected producers aren't reporting the disease to avoid locking horns with the state. "The number of farmers that reported the (Ephrata-area) outbreak are very few," he says. "As long as farmers have forced depopulation hanging over their heads they won't cooperate."

So, for the time being at least, it appears that the principle players in the drama have reached a stalemate, with producers finding no eradication plan at all to be preferable to what state officials are offering. As the Penn State study concludes, "There seems to be little incentive for the producer to cooperate voluntarily with the eradication program."

bring those who want to give hay together with those in drought stricken areas who really need it to keep going.

In addition, if people don't have hay to give but would like to donate money to buy hay or pay for trucking, a 1986 summer drought hay fund will be established at a local bank. Moneys deposited in this fund will be used to buy hay and/or provided trucking for donated hay as needed. The fund will be administrated by the Pennsylvania Farmers Association in their program to coordinate the effort.

Don Risser, a Bainbridge farmer and treasurer of the Lancaster County Holstein Association, has agreed to be the treasurer of this fund. PFA's marketing cooperative PACMA is lining up a list of coordinators in each county Farmers Association who will be establishing collection points and accepting donations. PACMA is in contact with the officials in the effected southern states and will be arranging the trucking and distribution of donated hay. PACMA is also collecting information on hay supplies available for sale to handle the long-term needs of southern farmers.

In addition, as we went to press Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Grubb announced Thursday that the Department of Agriculture will serve as an "information clearing house" to help farmers in drought stricken southeastern states obtain hay in Pennsylvania.

"Offers of assistance from Pennsylvanians will be channeled through the Department directly to those states where officials are coordinating relief efforts," Grubb said.

This will facilitate and expedite hay shipments from those who

have it to provide to those whose animals face starvation," he noted. Offers to ship for free or at cost and to provide other forms of aid also will be relayed."

The department has established a special telephone number, 717-787-2387 to receive calls from those who wish to lend support. "Pennsylvania farmers have responded to reports of extensive drought damage in southeastern states by calling the department and offering hay, feed, and transportation," Grubb said. "We are opening a channel to ease arrangement making in moving relief supplies."

"After discussing the problem with effected states and Governor Thornburgh's office, our role as an information clearing house seemed the best approach," Grubb said.

Information provided the department will be transmitted daily through a network of computer hookups to relief coordinators in the effected states.

Grubb said the department will also ask the district offices of federal agricultural agencies and of the Pennsylvania Extension Service to make farmers in their areas aware of the service.

"Should drought situations in several southern Pennsylvania counties produce requests for similar help, the same system can be employed to facilitate any offers of assistance," Grubb noted.

So if you want to get involved with this project, you may select one of the following ways to get involved.

The Pennsylvania State Department has established a special telephone number, 717-787-2387, to receive calls from those who wish to lend support.

For additional information from PACMA, you can contact the State Farmers Organization, by calling 717-761-2740.

Or if you would like to contact Lancaster Farming's office, you can do that by calling 717-394-3047 or 717-626-1164 any time during office hours.

Or you may write to Lancaster Farming newspaper, P.O. Box 366, 22 East Main Street, Lititz, PA 17543.

If you want to send money to the 1986 Summer Drought Hay Fund, you can make your checks payable to the fund, and send them to the Lancaster Farming address.

We don't want to be sensational or emotional. We just want to help if we can.

Lancaster Holstein Show

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Junior Champion Female
Thomas Barley
Reserve Jr. Champion Female
Sandra Kauffman
Jr 2-Year-Old
1 Joseph Delong 2 Len Lyn Farms 3 Harold Witmer
Sr 2-Year-Old
1 Robert Kauffman Jr 2 Sylvia Frey 3 Brenton Brubaker
3-Year-Old Cow
1 Thomas McCauley 2 Nathan Stoltzfus 3 Robert H Kauffman & Family
4-Year-Old Cow
1 Joseph Wivell 2 Silvermine Holsteins 3 Paul Weik
4-Year-Old Dry Cow
1 Mark Weik 2 Lamar Witmer 3 Kenneth Miller
5-Year-Old Cow
1 Thomas McCauley 2 Robert H Kauffman 3 Weik Acres
5-Year-Old Dry Cow
1 Paul & Maurice Weik 2 Bright Meadows Farm 3 Stonehurst Farms

Aged Cow and Over
1 Con Noll Farm 2 Galen Crouse 3 Lime Valley Assoc
Senior Champion Female
Thomas McCauley
Reserve Sr. Champion Female
Thomas McCauley
Grand Champion Female
Thomas McCauley
Reserve Grand Champion Female
Thomas McCauley
100,000 Lb. Production Class
1 Galen Crouse 2 Robert H Kauffman & Family 3 Mark Weik
Produce of Dam
1 Wivell/Donagel Creek 2 Len Lyn 3 Con Noll
Dam and Daughter
1 Mark Weik 2 Paul Weik 3 Matt Weik
Best Three Females
1 Con Noll Farm 2 Weik Crest Holsteins 3 Wivell/Blossomelle
Best Owned & Bred
1 Paul Weik 2 Joe Wivell
Premier Breeder
Star Rock Farms
Premier Exhibitor
Con Noll Farms

TIOGA COUNTY FAIR

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

through

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 1986

Located 1/2 mile off Rte. 6 and midway between Mansfield and Wellsboro

SIX DAYS OF FAMILY FUN!

EXHIBIT BUILDINGS OPEN

10 a.m. - 10 p.m. DAILY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

Fair entries will be accepted beginning at 8 a.m. All entries, livestock, and commercial exhibits must be entered by 9 p.m. Except Jr Dairy entries must be on the grounds by 2 p.m.
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - 4-H Round-up
1 p.m. - L & K Amusements open

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

Judging of all Fair Exhibits except livestock beginning at 8 a.m. Building will be closed until 1 p.m.
9 a.m. - 4-H & FFA Dairy Show
1 p.m. - 4 p.m. - Kiddle Matinee on the Midway
5 p.m. - Open & Jr Sheep Show
7:30 p.m. - Grange Variety Show
8 p.m. - Bovine Fashion Show - Show Ring
9 p.m. - Baked Goods Auction

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

9 a.m. - Swine Show
10 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Craft Show and Demonstration
10 a.m. - Outdoor Flea Market
1 p.m. - Open & Jr Beef Show
3 p.m. - Deadline for Open Show Dairy Entries
5 p.m. - Pork Roast
7 p.m. - Tractor & 4x4 Pull with the Virginia Giant

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

9 a.m. - 4-H & Vocational Horse Show
10 a.m. - Outdoor Flea Market
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Farmer's Market*
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Tioga Co Ag Promotion Day
11 a.m. - Horseshoe Tournament
3 p.m. - Jr Livestock Sale**
** Participants must be a member of an organized 4-H club or FFA chapter to sell an animal
7 p.m. - Demolition Derby
8 p.m. - 12 Midnight - Round & Square Dancing with "Dean McNett"

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Antique Car Show
11 a.m. - Church Service
No activities or concessions will function during the church service
12 noon - Ox Roast
1 p.m. - Open Colored Breed Show
2 p.m. - ATV & Odyssey Race
6 p.m. - Round Robin Showmanship Contest - Show Ring**
7 p.m. - Mini Tractor and Truck Pull
8 p.m. - Gospel Night with "Mavericks"
** Animals will be furnished. Judging will be by age groups. Winners will be chosen by total points in all three species

MONDAY, AUGUST 11

Sr Citizen's Day - Free admission to the grounds 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for those 62 years and older
9 a.m. - Open Holstein Show (Tractor driving contest for 4-H & FFA members immediately following)
12 noon - Chicken Barbecue
2 p.m. - Free entertainment in the Youth Center Building with the Mavericks
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. - pay one price on the midway
8 p.m. - 11 p.m. - Disco Dance by Fantasy IV
8 p.m. - Horse Pull (includes a class for Tioga Co residents only)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

11 a.m. - Removal of all exhibits
• **FARMERS MARKET POLICY:** Open to Non-profit organizations and individuals who wish to sell handcrafted items, baked goods, or produce in a designated area. The only charge being the \$1.00 per day gate fee or a \$5.00 weekly parking pass

L & K AMUSEMENTS - OPEN DAILY AT 1 P M