

Spread Of Pseudo Rabies

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will be ideal for the rapid spread of the disease.

"To coordinate clean-up we must know if the virus is moving to surrounding swine populations," said Trayer.

PRV Is Contagious

PRV is not confined to the swine industry. It can be spread to other ruminant animals which includes dairy cows, beef cattle, sheep and pets. These animals will die in two or three days after being exposed to the virus, according to Trayer.

Although research is being conducted on the ways it is spread, the hog is still the best transmitter of the disease. Exposure can be from nose to nose contact with pigs or virus particles can be transmitted wherever pigs are. Also, manure from the pigs if the same spreader is used to clean out all pens, the manure from the pig pens can spread the disease.

Ruminant animals get a mad itch and develop hot spots that may have the hair rubbed off. Any type of dumb behavior is characteristic of the disease or the animal is dead.

If the diseased animal is caught early the meat can still be marketed with absolutely no ill effects to the consumer, according to Trayer.

"The swine industry may be willing to live with their losses, but I'm not so sure the other animal industries it may affect, will be willing to do that," said Dr. Trayer.

"There is growing concern with allied industries. In Lancaster County dairy production ranks fourth in the nation. And it will affect the sheep, goat and pet population. We have already had to kill steers. All other animals are end hosts. If they get it, they cannot spread it to other animals. Horses and humans are not susceptible to this Herpes virus, explained Trayer."

Pseudo rabies is a virile infection of the Herpes family and it is not new. It was first identified in Pennsylvania history in 1979 in East Earl, south of Hershey. However, it is a lot older than that. It has been fought by hog producers in Minnesota, Indiana and Illinois for 13-14 years.

Proposed Eradication Program

Recommendations from the Swine Advisory Committee are waiting approval from the Secretary of Agriculture and the Bureau of Animal Industry and according to John Henkel, swine producer and chairman of the Swine Advisory Committee, the bureau is "generally in agreement with our recommendations".

"I can't give the fine details, yet, because they have not been worked out. However, we will have several public meetings around the beginning of the new year to hear what producers and everyone in the industry thinks," explained Henkel.

"I think we'll see some relaxation of clean-up control plans. We have been strongly pushing to get away from depopulation. Our proposals may take longer than previous eradication plans, but it will not be as financially expensive," said Henkel. "In the process are some changes in the use of the vaccine for pseudo rabies, also."

The Swine Advisory Committee will meet with the Bureau of Ani-

mal Industry on Tuesday, December 15, to continue work on the recommendations.

Presently there is a degree of national commitment from the National Pork Council for PRV eradication that was not there as recently as a year ago, according to Hutchinson. Hutchinson believes that it will take some persuasion to convince swine producers to follow an eradication program. Hutchinson feels with new methods of testing the current recommendations will be less inconvenient, less time-consuming and less expensive to

producers.

"Recent information shows us that we can be 95 percent certain if a herd has the PRV by testing only 25 to 30 percent of the herd. This is a great advantage to previous testing methods. This means the producer will not have to test all the animals, it will not be as time consuming, it will not be as costly to the producer and we can identify all the herds which have the disease in a much shorter time. This means that eradicating the disease will also take less time," said Dr. Hutchinson.

Pseudo Rabies Story Continued Next Week



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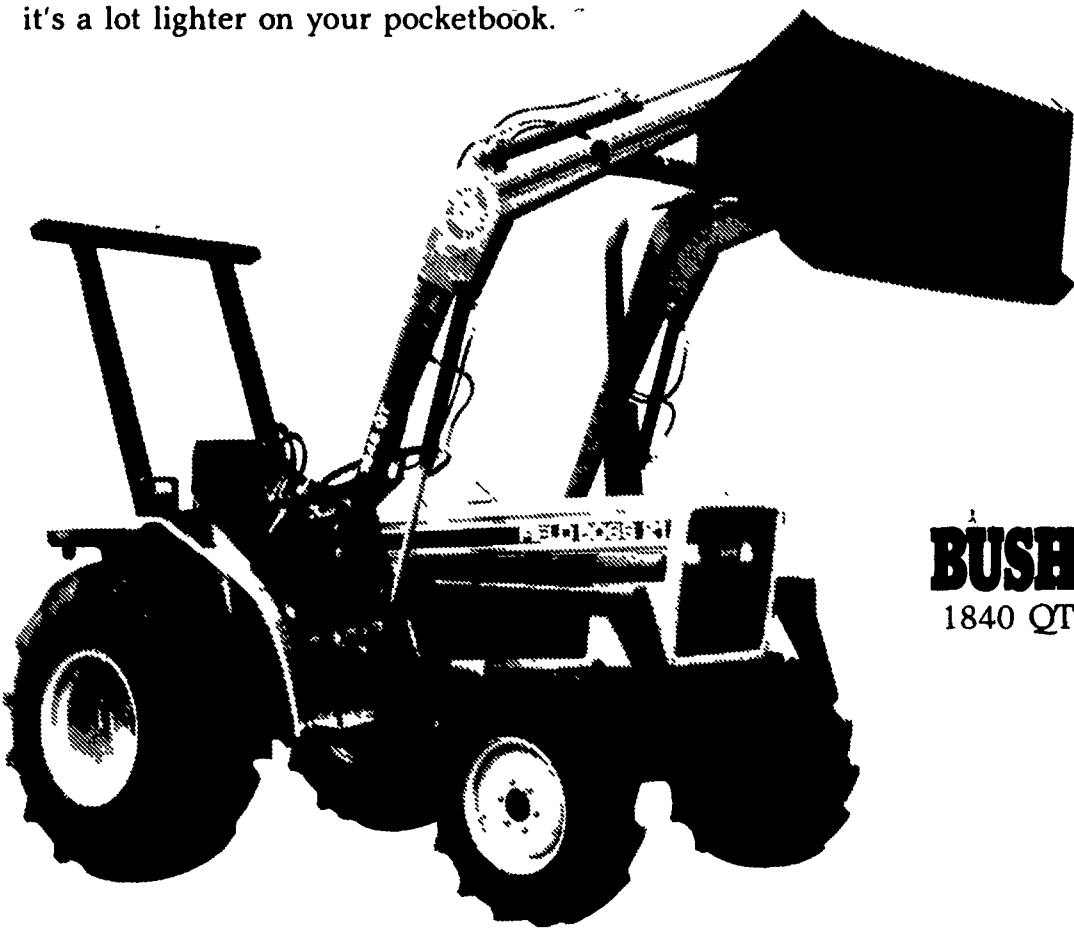
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