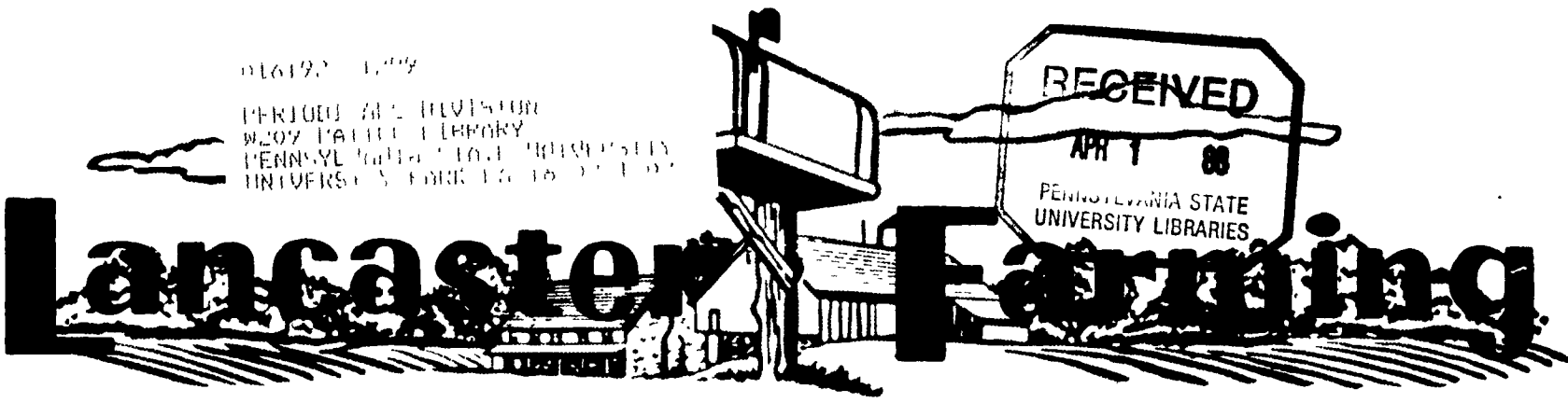


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Sulfa Drugs: A Problem For Pork Producers

BY LARRY HUTCHINSON
PSU Extension Veterinarian
UNIVERSITY PARK — Sulfa drugs have been used by pork producers for decades to help control diseases and increase feed efficiency. Recent developments may cause swine producers to rethink use of these drugs.

Item: Japanese importers of U.S. pork recently complained that some of the meat had traces of sul-

fa drug. USDA personnel are checking this out.

Item: The Food and Drug Administration has just released a report showing that sulfamethazine causes thyroid tumors in mice.

Item: Sulfamethazine is the sulfa drug most commonly found at slaughter in swine tissues. Other sulfa drugs are much less commonly found.

Item: Over the past ten years, violative levels of sulfamethazine have been found in 4 to 13% of tested swine tissues. After an all-out educational campaign on sulfa residues in 1979 and 1980, sulfa residues declined for several years; lately, though, they are creeping upward.

Item: Sulfa drugs are environmentally stable; they stay around a long time on feed, water, urine,

manure and in liquid manure pits and lagoons. Swine can pick up sulfas if they have access to manure, urine or bedding from treated animals.

Item: The Food Safety Inspection Service of the USDA has been testing about 1,400 pork carcasses per year for sulfas. With new in-plant tests, they're expecting to test up to 10% of all consignments at major swine slaughter houses

throughout the U.S.

Item: The tolerance, or allowable limit, for sulfa residues in pork tissue is 0.1 parts per million. If a pork carcass shows violative residues, the producer may not be paid for that animal and will be required to send the next five hogs under special permit so that they may be tested.

(Turn to Page A32)

Delaware Herds Increase Milk

BY SUE CROW
Maryland Correspondent

FELTON, De. — Over 200 people attended the annual Delaware Dairy Herd Improvement Association Dinner Meeting. President Wayne Collison assisted Extension Dairy Specialist Dr. George Haenlein in presenting the awards for outstanding herds and individual cow records.

In New Castle County the top herd for milk and fat went to W.L. & S. Phipps with a record of 20,352m 3.6% 734f on 64 cows. For Sussex County J. & A. Heatwole took the honors for fat and milk production with 21,761m 3.7% 797f. They were also top in the state for fat on 56 cows.

In Kent County the top herd for fat at 796 pounds went to C. Wyatt with the top herd for milk going to N.W. Voss with 22,772 pounds

(Turn to Page A32)



Leslie Moore (left) was crowned the Delaware Dairy Princess recently. Yolanda Grant (right) will serve as the Alternate Delaware Dairy Princess.

Farmland Preservation

Eckel Urges State

Legislators To Get Cracking

BY LISA RISSER

HERSHEY — Pennsylvania Farmers Association President Keith Eckel strongly urged members of the state Senate and House to get the \$100 million farmland preservation program underway.

"It is important that action should not be delayed. The time to act is now," he declared. "Passage of the \$100 million bond issue was a great beginning. Let's keep the ball rolling."

Eckel addressed the state lawmakers and more than 400 farmers that took part in PFA's annual State Legislative Tour. During the Monday night banquet, Eckel expressed the organization's concern about farmland preservation, meaningful tax reform, and an increase in plant and animal

research.

Reminding legislators that voters approved a bond issue by two-to-one to help preserve farmland, Eckel added, "The electorate has in essence written a \$100-million check to the Commonwealth to be used to purchase conservation easements for the benefit of future generations of farmers and consumers. We need to cash the check and get on with the future."

Animal health and plant health research are high on the farm organization's list of priority issues. Eckel stated that one-third of the state's agricultural production is lost due to disease. "That is a big loss that must be shouldered by the consumer in the form of increased food prices," he remarked. "Many

(Turn to Page A32)

National DHIA Convention Report

BY KARL BERGER
Special Correspondent

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Directors and delegates of the National Dairy Herd Improvement Association, custodians of a nationwide system of affiliated state and local DHI associations,

tackled several major issues at the organization's annual convention March 14-17 in Indianapolis, Ind., producing policy that may affect individual members in a number of ways.

The four-day affair brought together several hundred state DHI

delegates and officials from across the country. In addition to setting policy, the delegates toured local farms and approved several bylaw changes.

Action was taken on two major issues: state lines and quality certification. The delegates tabled a

resolution dealing with a third, private testing services.

To J. Robert Kindig, a Conestoga, Pa., farmer and one of National DHIA's 12 directors, the board's decision to endorse a policy on the state line issue holds the most significance for individual dairymen.

The board's action, which followed a favorable reception to the policy from delegates meeting in regional caucuses, establishes a framework for states to resolve situations in which a farmer who lives in one state wants to obtain

(Turn to Page A21)

Pseudo Rabies Study May Reveal Link To Spread

BY PAT PURCELL

CARLISLE — The spread of pseudo rabies by animals other than hogs, may be a distinct possibility, if the preliminary findings of a recent study prove conclusive. At a luncheon, held Friday in Carlisle, hosted by the Pennsylvania Grange, Dr. Daniel Cohen, University of Pennsylvania, New Bolton Center, discussed the study. Cohen began investigating the spread of PRV in April of 1987, through a request made by the Pennsylvania Grange to Dr. Robert Marschak, Dean at New Bolton Center.

According to Cohen, any virus needs a host. The host becomes a reservoir of infection. If there is evidence that wildlife has become the reservoir of infection, Cohen

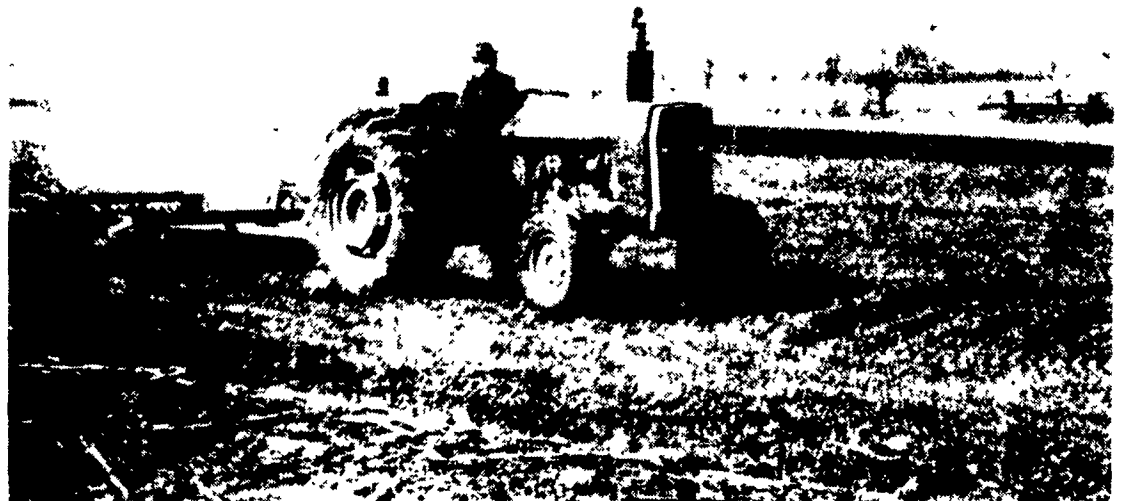
stated, it would be almost impossible to eradicate the disease.

Efforts to eradicate the disease through physical clean-up, depopulation, and strict bio-security practices, have not prevented the spread of the disease throughout the Lancaster County area. Cohen said there has been a real lack of attention paid to the other animals on the farm and around the farm and especially to wildlife.

There are 52 known cases of pseudo rabies within the state with most incidences of the disease occurring in one narrow geographical area, the Lancaster County area. He also noted that cases outside that area could easily be traced back to Lancaster County.

Wild animals have been trapped

(Turn to Page A20)



You could stand on almost any rise this week, look across the farmlands and see several neighbors working the soil. Here, Managing Editor, Everett Newswanger, found Aaron Zelset, Leola, in a farm scene looking north across Groffdale Church Rd. The ground is working up nicely, maybe a little dry for this time of year, but rain in the weather forecast gave hope for the alfalfa fields that have been seeded.

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