

## Swine Disease Could Put Farmers Out Of Business

**BY BONNIE BRECHBILL**  
Franklin Co. Correspondent  
SHIPPENSBURG — "There are five diseases that are an economic threat to you," Dr. Jerome Harness told farmers at the Memorial Lutheran Church on February 8. "The first two-hemophilus and swine dysentery--will put you out of business."

Harness, a Greencastle veterinarian who specializes in the care of swine, updated pork producers on five swine diseases at the Adams/Franklin/Cumberland Pork Producer's meeting.

The five diseases, along with their causes, predisposing factors, signs, diagnoses, treatments, and strategies for prevention are:

### Hemophilus

- Caused- by bacteria.
- Predisposing factors--carrier hogs, ventilation.
- Signs--sudden death with no symptoms, mostly in grower and finishing pigs--not many under 60 pounds are stricken.
- Diagnosis--lungs look bad in a necropsy (swine equivalent of an autopsy). The bacterium can be cultured.
- Treatment--Denegard in water, Naxel injections, LA 200 injections, Penicillin.
- Prevention--be sure your source of feeder pigs is clean, depopulate, vaccinate, put antibiotics in feed.

### Swine Dysentery

- Caused — by bacteria.
- Predisposing factors--occurs in 4-12 pound pigs, manure build-up lack of sanitation, dogs and rodents are carriers, flies can carry it for four hours.
- Signs--"Gaunted" look, brown-red diarrhea, sudden death, off-feed.
- Diagnosis--necropsy findings, microscopic exam, difficult to culture.
- Treatment--Denegard in water, Lincomycin in feed--100 gm/Ton, Lincomycin in water, clean up, scrape down.
- Prevention-- be careful of your sources, avoid manure build-up, BMD 250 gm/Ton, Denegard

35 gm/Ton, Lincomycin 40 gm/Ton, Mecadox to 75 pounds, depopulate, eradicate, vaccinate.

Concerning the vaccination for swine dysentery, Dr. Harness said, "Those who sell the vaccine say it works. Those who test it say it doesn't."

### Strep Suis

• Caused by bacteria. "Strep Suis is a great copycat," Dr. Harness said. "It can look like anything."

• Predisposing factors--ventilation, carrier sows, young pigs.

• Signs--Poor doers, cough, swollen joints, vulvar discharge, weight loss, nervous signs.

• Diagnosis--necropsy suggestive of it, easily cultured, sensitivity test is performed to determine which antibiotics will prevent the bacteria from growing.

• Treatment--feed antibiotics, however, it is often seen in pigs that are too young to be eating feed. Other treatments are penicillin, terramycin, lincomycin, injections--penicillin, LA 200, Poly-Flex, amoxicillin, and lincomycin.

• Prevention--early antibiotics, autogenous vaccine.

### Transmissible Gastroenteritis (TGE)

• Caused by a virus.

• Predisposing factors--time since the last outbreak, "If it has been four or five years since your last outbreak, then you're due," Harness said; time of year--usually strikes between Christmas and Easter. This has been the worst year ever for TGE, according to Harness, because he saw the disease all fall; carriers are birds and people.

• Signs--vomiting and diarrhea, 1-4 days old, near 100 percent loss in young pigs.

• Diagnosis--direct microscopic examination on gut, send gut loops to special lab.

• Treatment--none.

• Prevention--commercial vaccines (effectiveness debatable),

homemade vaccines, pigs should have continuous access to sow, older sows tend to be immune, limit access to unit.

### Rota Virus

• Caused by a virus.

• Predisposing factors--poor sanitation in farrowing house, carrier sows, weaning brings it on, change to solid feed, gilt litter.

• Signs--vomiting, mild diarrhea, post-weaning scours, 7-30 days of age, low mortality, "set back" for a few days.

• Diagnosis--gut loop to special lab.

• Treatment--none; could try control E-coli (secondary infection), support pigs, give good nursing care.

• Prevention--dry--clean--draft-free environment, vaccinate, natural vaccination, manure feedback, older sows apt to be immune.



Dr. Ken Kephart, left, and Dr. Jerome Harness addressed the Adams/Franklin/Cumberland pork producers meeting last week.

## Public Speaking Contest To Be Held At National Junior Angus Show

ST. JOSEPH, MO — The American Angus Association will sponsor its first ever national Public Speaking Contest during the 1989 National Junior Angus Show and Showmanship Contest, July 18-20 in Louisville, Kentucky.

"Communication is an absolutely vital element in our society," said Mark Wyble, director of junior activities for the American Angus Association. "The ability to communicate effectively is not only an art, but can mean the difference between success and or failure."

In an effort to foster the development of speaking skills among National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members, the American Angus Association and the NJAA Board of Directors will sponsor this national public speaking contest for NJAA members.

Some of the regulations for the contest are as follows, junior

Angus members may speak on any subject pertaining to Angus cattle or the beef industry. Each speech should be between six and eight minutes in length and each contestant will be allowed up to five minutes to answer questions from the judges.

Contestants will be divided into two age groups: 16 years old and under, and 17 to 21 years of age.

Plaques and cash awards will be awarded in both categories.

Any junior Angus member interested in participating in the contest, and for complete information contact the American Angus Association junior activities department, 3201 Frederick Blvd., St. Joseph, Missouri 64501 or phone 816/233-3101.

## Lancaster County To Hold Poultry Educational Meeting

LANCASTER — During the last several years there have been many challenges and changes in our poultry industry — from disease outbreaks to depressed prices and tight margins. In an effort to help farmers meet these situations, the Education Committee of the Lancaster County Poultry Association and the Penn State Cooperative Extension have developed an all-day program for the 7th Annual Poultry Progress Day on Thursday, March 2, starting at 8:30 a.m. in the Farm and Home Center.

New homes continue to spring up throughout the county; many near poultry farms. This creates a new set of circumstances in "Living With Your Neighbor" with

pest control and manure handling. Dead bird disposal continues to be a concern. Researchers at the University of Delaware developed a composting system for disposing dead birds, and attendees will hear about the system. In addition, they'll hear how computers are assisting management in layer and broiler houses.

Other topics include future lifestyle trends that will affect the poultry industry, poultry facilities at Penn State, the national survey conducted for egg producers, and poultry health.

This meeting qualifies for 2 core credits for your Private Applicator Pesticide License. Please bring your license.

## AHIS Amends Brucellosis Regulations

WASHINGTON, DC. — The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is amending the regulations governing the interstate movement of cattle because of brucellosis.

Under the proposed rule, brucellosis exposed female cattle from Class B states or areas would be allowed to move interstate to

recognized slaughtering establishments and quarantined feedlots only. Male cattle under six months of age from herds known to be affected would continue to move interstate in accordance with the current regulations. Under the proposal, female cattle and test-eligible male cattle originating in Class C states or areas which are not brucellosis exposed and are from herds not known to be affected would be allowed to move interstate to recognized slaughtering establishments and quarantined feedlots only. All other interstate movement of these cattle from Class C states or areas would be allowed only if they originate in certified brucellosis free herds. These restrictions are effective as of February 17, 1989.

For more information contact Dr. Hugh E. Metcalf, senior veterinary medical officer, Animal and Depredation Management Systems, Program and Policy Development, APHIS-USDA. Phone: (301) 436-8499. (Federal Register, January 18, 1989)

## Timely Tips Offered For Swine Feed-Antibiotic Management

LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND — Mounting concern over drug residues and bacterial resistance in swine has prompted veterinarians, producers and feed dealers to take a second look at certain feed additives -- particularly those used in grower-finisher rations.

Noting that some additives are intended primarily for growth promotion and that others are best reserved for treating certain respiratory diseases, Dr. John R. Walton -- a well-known swine veterinarian at the University of Liverpool, England -- has developed some useful guidelines for feed-antibiotic management.

Following are what he calls the "Ten Commandments of a Growth-Promoting Antibiotic":

A grower-finisher antibiotic should...

1. Improve performance effectively and economically.
2. Not cause cross resistance to other antimicrobials.
3. Not be involved with transferable drug resistance.
4. Not disturb the microflora of the normal gut -- for once disturbed, pathogens can easily enter.
5. Have little or no therapeutic use in human or veterinary

medicine.

6. Not be absorbed and remain in contact with the gut bacteria to produce the best effect and avoid tissue residues.

7. Not promote salmonella shedding.

8. Not be mutagenic or carcinogenic.

9. Not give rise to environmental pollution.

10. Be non-toxic to animals and human handlers -- even at levels many times the normal use level.

Dr. Walton, who will be touring

### Sportsmen

CLARION — A meeting of state sportsmen/conservation group leaders, selected legislators and the heads of the Pennsylvania Fish and Game Commissions has been called for March 4 to discuss how sportsmen can deal more effectively with the legislature and state agencies.

Sponsors of the meeting, the All Pennsylvania Sportsmen's Rally, hope a network can be established among the various statewide organizations so they can cooperate with each other and deal with the legislature as one large sportsmen's constituency rather than as

the USA this year and speaking at several industry meetings, urges producers, veterinarians and feed dealers to work more closely together in selecting feed additives.

He also notes that rotating certain feed antibiotics in the grower-finisher phase -- for example, feeding BMD for three weeks, CTC for one week -- will help to reduce costs and improve the activity of tetracyclines.

### To Meet With State Officials

relatively small special interest groups.

Sponsors of the rally are alarmed by the sentiments of some state legislators that the politicians should control the fish, game and boat funds and thus exercise control over the fish and game programs of the state.

In addition to the state sports/conservation leaders, members of the fish and game commissions and the House and Senate Game and Fisheries Committees have been invited to attend.

The meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Mariann