

Pseudorabies Eradication Program Under Way

MADISON, Wis. — The national pseudorabies eradication program is off and running, with strong pork producer support for the program and the likelihood that tests which can distinguish between vaccinated and non-vaccinated animals should be made "official" tests within the next few months.

These were some of the conclusions of the Livestock Conserva-

tion Institute (LCI) Pseudorabies Committee, which met at the LCI Annual Meeting April 3-5 in Louisville, Kentucky.

The LCI Pseudorabies Committee expressed frustration about the lengthy delay in making the differential test an official test, since the test has been available for over a year but its use has been restricted awaiting its official status. The Committee passed a

resolution that USDA develop a system of departmental review that will expedite the process of approving such tests, especially when delay is due to indecision by those reviewing the data, and additional data is not needed.

States are moving forward in the eradication program with 28 states now qualifying for status. Currently, there are 7 states in the mandatory cleanup phase of the

program (Stage III), 13 states in the control stage (Stage II), and 8 states in the preparation stage (Stage I).

In order to move ahead further in the eradication program, the committee passed a resolution that the PRV program standards be amended to permit states to have split status. This will allow more of the program funds to be directed to key areas in the state

for herd cleanup and control. The National Pseudorabies Control Board and the APHIS Technical Advisory Committee also recommended that the program standards be amended to permit split status. The Pseudorabies Committee of the United States Animal Health Association will meet in October 1990 to make their recommendation to USDA on this issue.

Farm Tractors: Accidents Waiting To Happen

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Many farmers show a "blatant disregard for safety" by failing to maintain tractor safety devices, a Missouri study shows.

"Half of the tractors we tested did not have power take-off (PTO) shields," said James Frisby, professor and chairman of the University of Missouri-Columbia Department of Agricultural Engineering.

"That's not surprising," said Frisby. "Other studies have shown there is less than a 50 percent chance that tractor owners and

operators will replace PTO shields after removing them."

Frisby and three other agricultural engineers conducted six tractor-testing clinics in Missouri in the last two years. The team found tractors had some serious safety-related deficiencies.

Not one tractor operator carried a fire extinguisher or a first-aid kit.

Most warning lights were faulty (31 percent of the hazard lights, 29 percent of the taillights, and 42 percent of the turn signals either were not present or did not work

properly).

"As tractors get older, farmers tend to neglect maintenance of original equipment manufacturers' (OEM) safety devices," Frisby said. He urges farmers to maintain these safety devices just as they would the tractor's engine.

Frisby was joined in the farm safety study by Leon Schumacher, now at North Dakota State University; William Hires, University of Missouri; and J. Daniel Chappell, high school vocational agriculture teacher in Camdenton, Missouri.

Extension Studies Maple Syrup Production

TOWANDA (Bradford Co.) — The Penn State Cooperative Extension is presently conducting a survey to determine the amount of maple syrup produced in the Northern Tier counties of the commonwealth.

Maple producers who are members of maple producers associations should receive these surveys in the mail. If you produce maple syrup but are not a member of a maple producers association, we would appreciate it if you could let us know so we can send you a survey.

We need to include all the producers if we are to gain an accurate figure of the amount of maple

syrup produced in these countries. This information will allow us to better serve your needs as maple producers. Please contact the following people for more information: Dr. Robert S. Hansen, Area Extension Forester, Penn State Coop. Extension, PO Box 69, Towanda, PA 18848, (717) 265-2896; Edward Pruss, County Extension Agent, Penn State Coop. Extension, Courthouse, Honesdale, PA 18431, (717) 253-5970; and Sandy Smith, Area Extension Forester, Penn State Coop. Extension, 207 West Fifth Avenue, Warren, PA 16365, (814) 723-6003.

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