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A Boyish Touch, But Pseudorabies Fear Continues On Hog Farms



Warm weather, pussy willows, plowing, and baby piglets remind us of spring. Eleven-year-old David Fahnestock from Lititz, Lancaster County, in the sixth grade at White Oak Elementary School, adds a boyish touch to this "Photo For Spring."

But not everything has a nice subjective feeling on hog farms when you consider the pseudorabies threat to the nation's pork producers. David's father, Robert Fahnestock, is the producer/coordinator of the Pennsylvania Pseudorabies Eradication Program. Fahnestock believes strongly that producers need to work together now to clean up the pseudorabies virus (PRV) problem while they have the opportunity.

"Gene-deleted vaccine gives producers opportunity to clean up a herd at much lower cost than depopulation if all producers work together at the program at the same time," Fahnestock said. "If producers do not work together now to clean up PRV while we have the opportunity, the National Eradication Program could, at some indefinite time in the future, bring some type of depopulation back to clean up any remaining positive herds."

Lancaster County ranks third in the nation for pork production (the first two counties are in Iowa) and the problem has been reported especially in the northern part of the county. But other counties are now working on the problem, too. And overall, the various parties involved in the Pennsylvania program have begun to work more closely together. The groups involved include the Lancaster/Chester Pork Producers Council, the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council, area veterinarians, Penn State extension specialists, and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

At the industry's request, *Lancaster Farming* has been running a series of articles on the problem. The sixth article in the series along with a list of contact persons can be found on Page D-3 of this issue.

In addition, Carolyn Burns, Extension assistant at Penn State, announced this week the availability of a guide for swine producers, entitled "Swine Health and Biosecurity Manual." This reference notebook includes a checklist or calendar of recommended management procedures. Burns said, with the help of a veterinarian, the guide can be customized to meet the needs of any swine operation. The manual provides information from how to control traffic on the farm to a drug use guide to prevent drug residues in the meat — information that every hog farmer can use. The cost is \$8. Requests for the manual should be directed to the Publications Distribution Center, Penn State University, 112 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802. Or contact your local Extension office.
Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.

Penn State To Disperse Colored Breed Dairy Herds

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
STATE COLLEGE (Centre

Last Call For Distinction

Now is your last chance to apply for the Dairy of Distinction designation for your farm. Your application must be postmarked no later than Monday, April 15. See Page A-30 for details and an application blank.

Co.) — Penn State University's College of Agriculture is going to disperse its colored breed herds, probably within the next six months.

According to Dr. Stanley Curtis, head of the college's Department of Dairy and Animal Science, the decision to disperse is final, but specific details are yet to be settled of when and how the 109 Guernsey, Brown Swiss, Ayrshire and Jersey cows and heifers will be sold.

Curtis said that a number of problems, aggravated by the severe budgetary restrictions

placed on the entire college, have led to the decision to eliminate the small colored breed herds.

But colored breed dairy cattle aren't the only domestic animal breed to be targeted for elimination from the Penn State program.

According to Curtis, the Suffolk sheep are also slated for dispersal. The college is going to keep only its polled Dorset flock, for some of the same reasons.

Curtis said all animal popula-

tions currently maintained by Penn State are being scrutinized for need and application to ongoing projects.

The reasons for the elimination of animals are several, but lack of adequate funding from state and federal sources is most immediate. But Curtis said it also involves attempts to increase efficiency at the college.

"We are re-examining our farm operations with regard to every

species," Curtis said. "The situation of course is different with each of the species. We have decided to disperse the Suffolk . . . We are looking at each species with the same eye.

"Fiscal constraint is such that we can't continue as we have, and we have to establish priorities and continue with them.

"Those are the realities of state
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PDA's Lancaster Stockyard Office To Close

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — State Agriculture Secretary Boyd E. Wolff today announced that the department's Lancaster Stockyard field office will close on May 17.

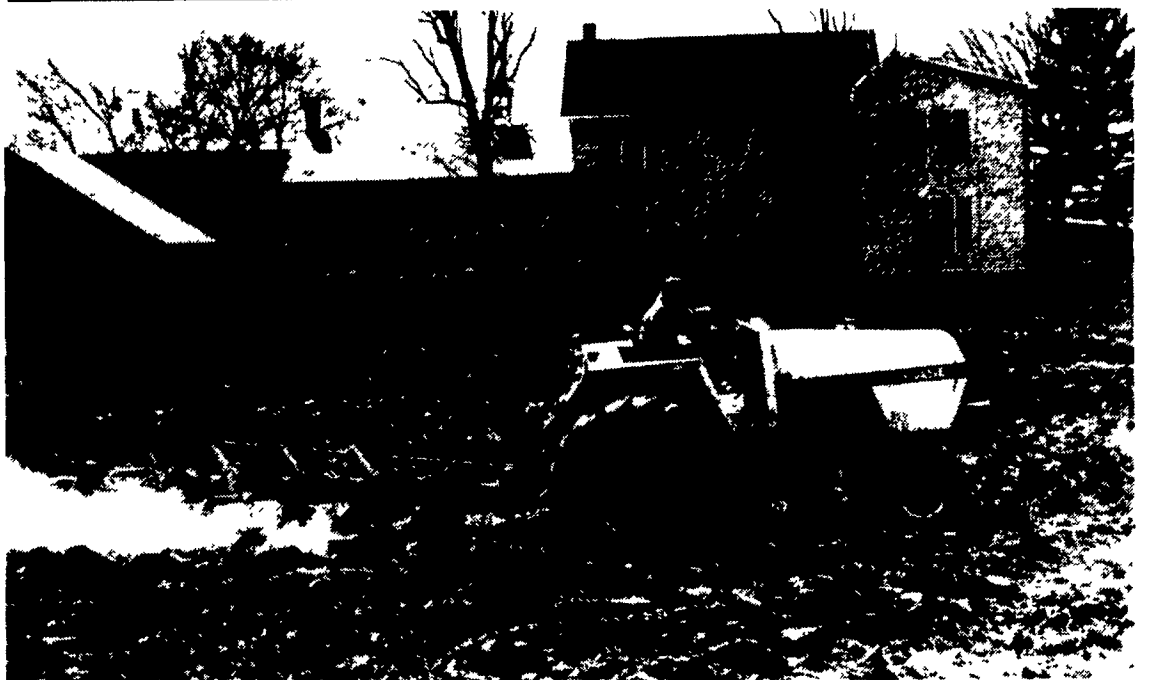
The department's Summerdale regional office, near Harrisburg in Cumberland County, will offer livestock certification services previously provided by the Lancaster office, Wolff said.

"The effective control of brucellosis and tuberculosis in Pennsylvania cattle herds has reduced the need for a special office in the Lancaster area," Wolff said. "Meanwhile, computerized records have greatly

diminished the need for clerical support at the stockyard, and today, private veterinarians are authorized to certify livestock for shipment."

Wolff said the Lancaster office, a field branch of the department's Summerdale regional office, was established more than 40 years ago because of Lancaster County's large animal population and livestock marketing and shipping activity at the stockyard.

Livestock owners and dealers in the Lancaster area can contact the regional office (717) 787-3400 or the Bureau of Animal Industry's Headquarters (717) 783-5301.



David Martin helps brother-in-law John Nolt get in a little spring plowing. With the warmer than normal spring weather, farmers have taken advantage of the opportunity to get in the fields to work the ground. Everett Newswanger, managing editor, found this plowing picture between Lititz and Manheim in Lancaster County.