

PSEUDORABIES HEADLINE UPDATE

A column to update hog producers on the Pennsylvania Pseudorabies Eradication Program.

vaccinated twice before entering the breeding herd. A blood test done one year later showed that replacement gilts were holding negative. Two years after the herd was quarantined, a whole herd test was negative. After a second whole herd test two months later was negative, the herd was released from quarantine.

Producer B experienced a severe outbreak of pseudorabies in his 80-sow, farrow-to-finish herd in late spring. Sows were off feed, pigs died in the farrowing room and nursery, grower pigs were off feed and several died, and signs of pneumonia were seen in the finish pigs. He began to vaccinate the breeding herd, boosting the sows prior to farrowing and the boars four times a year. He began vaccinating feeder pigs at 12 weeks of age. He continued to raise replacement gilts in the continuous flow grow/finish building.

Three years later, a random sample of the breeding herd tested negative. A few months later, he began testing to qualify for quarantine removal. After three random herd tests were all negative, the herd was removed from quarantine, four years after the outbreak. This producer had very little dis-

ruption in his normal pig flow and was able to eliminate the infection from the herd using a sound vaccination program and good management to minimize stress. He recently retested his herd for pseudorabies and the results showed that the herd is still clean, one year after coming off quarantine.

Producer C experienced an acute outbreak of pseudorabies in his large (450-sow) feeder pig producing herd shortly after receiving new gilts. About 10 percent of the pigs in the farrowing rooms, several lambs, and a dog died from symptoms suggestive of pseudorabies. The lab confirmed this diagnosis in pigs showing signs of pseudorabies. Vaccination of the breeding stock was done two weeks after the first signs of pseudorabies were noticed. Vaccination was repeated two weeks later and then every four months. Culling and replacement rates were increased to allow the herd to be completely turned over within a 12-month period of time.

At the same time, farrowing rooms operated as all-in/all-out. Steps were taken to segregate older infected sows from young sows in

the gestation barn. Several months after the outbreak, testing began to show that vaccination and management changes were preventing virus circulation. Young sows were holding negative. A whole herd test done 17 months after the outbreak showed that only a few positive animals remained in the herd. After follow-up testing was negative, the herd was released from quarantine just 20 months after the original outbreak.

These cases illustrate that it is possible to eliminate pseudorabies from a herd without interrupting production. Two of these producers chose to renew their genetics and rapidly roll their herds over, allowing them to eliminate pseudorabies within two years of the original outbreak.

In the next installment of this series, we will report on the progress of several producers currently under quarantine and following herd plans for pseudorabies cleanup.

PSEUDORABIES SUCCESS STORIES

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In this article, we will give case histories for several producers who became quarantined for pseudorabies and who, because of their commitment to the program, successfully eliminated the infection from their herds.

feeder pig producing herd. He chose not to vaccinate for pseudorabies, even though several quarantined herds were within two miles of his confinement unit. After one of his sows tested positive for pseudorabies at slaughter, a herd test showed that his herd had been exposed to pseudorabies virus and he was quarantined. He began a herd plan, vaccinating his breeding herd three times a year.

He increased his culling rate slightly, replacing old sows with purchased gilts. These new additions were isolated for 30 days and

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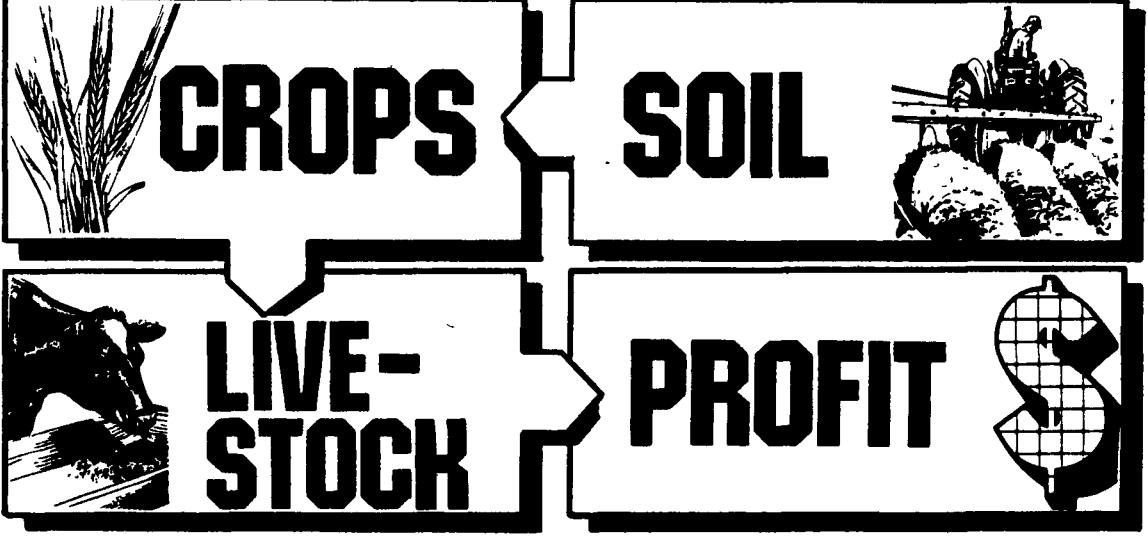
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