

GEOGRAPHY AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN PENNSYLVANIA SWINE HERDS — CAN THEY EXPLAIN THE SPREAD OF PSEUDORABIES VIRUS IN SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA?

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Producers and veterinarians are often stymied in understanding why one farm is susceptible to certain diseases while neighboring farms are not.

Differences in geography, animal genetics, and farm management are the most likely reasons why some farms are affected and others are disease-free.

Pseudorabies is a disease that has plagued Pennsylvania swine producers for many years, and the way it spreads between farms is still a mystery. Although some farm infections can be traced to animal movement, most infections cannot be explained.

The most common explanation for a new herd infection is unknown. Dr. Bill Sischo, Ms.

Heather Norman, and Ms. Carol Burns, from Penn States Department of Veterinary Science, are interested in trying to find answers to the pseudorabies mystery.

Beginning in late July, approximately 700 managers and owners of swine herds will receive a mail survey. The survey will ask questions about pseudorabies vaccination programs, herd biosecurity, animal movement, farm management, and location. There will be approximately 30 questions and should take less than 15 minutes to fill out.

Importantly, all the information on this questionnaire will be confidential. For this survey to be successful, Penn State personnel will need your cooperation in answering the question which indicates whether or not you've been affected with pseudorabies.

The information from this survey will be combined with information that has already been collected by Drs. Amy Nesselrodt and Paul Pitcher from USDA. These data should add to the pseudorabies eradication effect in Pennsylvania and help identify the management schemes that will be most helpful in stopping the spread of pseudorabies in Pennsylvania.

Pseudorabies Will Be Eradicated By 1999, Says USDA

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — By June 1999, the nation will achieve the goal of eradicating swine pseudorabies, a costly acute viral disease, if current trends continue a federal health official reported at the 130th annual convention of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), July 17-21, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

"For the first time ever, the total number of swine herds infected with pseudorabies has started to drop," said Joseph F. Anelli, M.S., D.V.M., of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service,

Hyattsville, Md.

Anelli attributed the success of the fight against pseudorabies to clean up plans started as part of a cooperative effort of the swine industry, state, and federal governments to eradicate the disease by the year 2000.

For the past three years, the prevalence of swine pseudorabies has been declining in most states. "The reason for these trends is that more and more herds are on clean up plans," Dr. Anelli said.

Adult infected swine can become virus carriers without showing any outward signs of pseudorabies and may pass the

disease through the herd. Infected sows are likely to abort fetuses or produce stillborn or weak litters. Infected baby pigs are usually severely ill and often die.

In addition, pseudorabies suppresses the animal's immune system, increasing the infected pig's susceptibility to other diseases, particularly respiratory diseases such as pneumonia.

The U.S. swine industry spends \$21 million annually on vaccines for pseudorabies. While the vaccine does not cure the disease, it limits the transmission of virus within the herd and prevents clinical signs. However, producers with infected herds still suffer additional, incalculable losses due to animals' increased susceptibility to respiratory diseases.

Achievement of all the technological needs to complete the pseudorabies eradication process will be feasible, "if we have the will to do it," George W. Bera, D.V.M., of Iowa State University, Ames, IA, said in a separate presentation.

These technological needs, according to Dr. Beran, include:

- Cost-effective surveillance in high density swine population states.
- Development of effective national slaughter surveillance.
- Effective swine identification and traceback.
- Laboratory techniques to detect recombinant vaccine — field virus strains.
- Control of the reservoir in feral (wild) swine.

Massey Ferguson Leads Tractor Sales

NORCROSS, Ga. — Last year's industry results confirm Massey Ferguson continued as the best-selling tractor brand in western world markets.

"This is the 30th consecutive year Massey Ferguson has earned this leadership position," said Graeme Leonard, vice president, Massey Ferguson North American Operations, "and preliminary figures for last year show the company maintained its lead in world tractor sales, outstripping its nearest rival by more than 40 percent."

In a harsh global environment of shrinking markets and intensified competition in 1992, total industry sales of tractors in the

world outside the former USSR and Eastern Europe territories fell about 2.5 percent from 1991 levels. By contrast, Massey Ferguson succeeded in offsetting the industry decline, increasing its sales approximately 6.5 percent.

In 1993, Massey Ferguson is also marking the 75th anniversary of the start of its tractor production; the 60th anniversary of Harry Ferguson's first prototype Ferguson System tractor (now in the Science Museum, London); and the 40th anniversary of the merger between Harry Ferguson and Massey-Harris to form the basis of the present-day Massey Ferguson group.



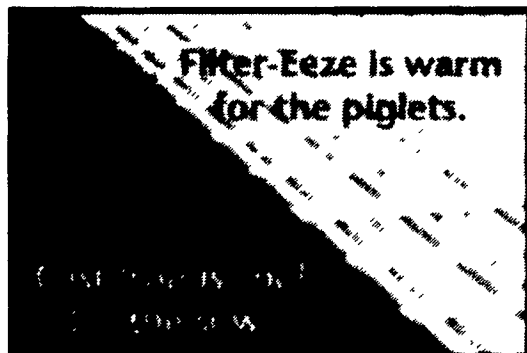
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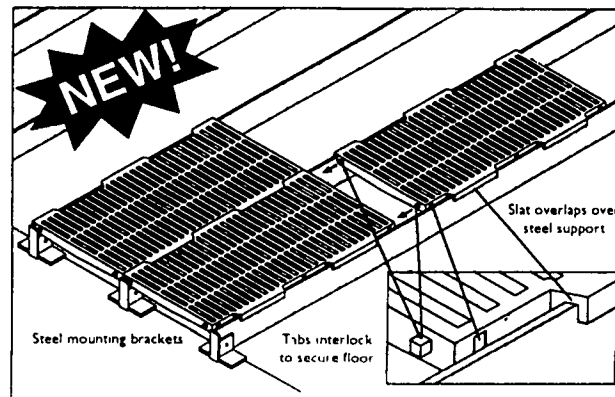
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