



# Livestock Ledger

By  
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Extension Livestock Specialist

day, November 23, 7:30 p.m. at the Bergstrasse School (on Hahnstown Road, at the northeast corner of the junction of Routes 222 and 322, east of Ephrata). This informational and discussion opportunity will look at swine health, profitability, and pseudorabies. Speakers will share information on successful control, a feeder pig vaccination project, and split-state status for Pennsylvania.

### Sheep Profitability

David Greene, Carroll County livestock agent with Maryland Cooperative Extension, recently spoke to Lancaster County sheep producers relating that profitability with a small flock is an attainable goal.

Despite all the challenges, sheep production in the eastern United States can be a profitable experience, with success often depending on your approach.

As reported in the October 1993 issue of the National Wool Grower, Greene states, "I think most people approach the sheep business the wrong way. They go out and buy sheep and then ask themselves what they're going to do with them. The first thing you should do is investigate the market, pinpoint what would be most profitable and then meet the needs of that market. That's the preferred approach — but one that usually is not taken.

"With the industry the way it is here — with so many part-timers — a lot of people think you must not be able to make any money at all," said Greene. "It kind of clouds the thinking of everyone else. In actuality, you can make money very easily if you go about it the right way."

Through an organized direct marketed, freezer lamb program, David Greene and his wife, Nancy, have been able to be profitable with their 100-ewe flock. David has also prepared a Sheep Management Guide aimed primarily at the small flock operator. A copy of the guide can be obtained from the Carroll County Extension Service, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157, Lancaster County Cooperative Extension, 1383 Arcadia Road, Room 1, Lancaster, PA 17601.

### Biosecurity and PRV

As a recent *Lancaster Farming* article indicated, I was "alarmed" at the results of a biosecurity survey conducted by Penn State's Veterinary Science Department among swine producers in Lancaster and Lebanon counties.

In an area where diseases such as TGE, PRV, and PRRS take their toll on swine herd health, I would like to think that biosecurity is a front burner issue for local pork producers.

The survey indicated differently with important, effective practices such as replacement stock isolation, shipping truck disinfection, proper dead animal disposal, rodent control, and cautious farm visitation procedures receiving poor marks. Ranging from 20 percent - 50 percent, producers answers to questions about these issues indicated a lack of good biosecurity.

Penn State Cooperative Extension is willing to help with improving biosecurity on your farm. A resource entitled "Pennsylvania Swine Health and Biosecurity Manual" is available from Penn State University for only \$8. The workbook, compiled by extension veterinarians headed by Dr. Larry J. Hutchinson, is designed to help pork producers keep their herds healthy and economically productive.

Biosecurity refers to those management practices that protect the herd from the entry of new diseases and minimize the spread and adverse effects of diseases in a herd. Ask your county extension agent for help with planning biosecurity for your operation.

Focusing on PRV (pseudorabies), I want to invite interested producers to a meeting on Tues-

### STRATEGIC PARASITE CONTROL

At a recent beef production in-service that I attended, Dr. Tom Drake, Penn State extension veterinarian, outlined a simple but effective deworming program for cow/calf producers introduced as strategic parasite control.

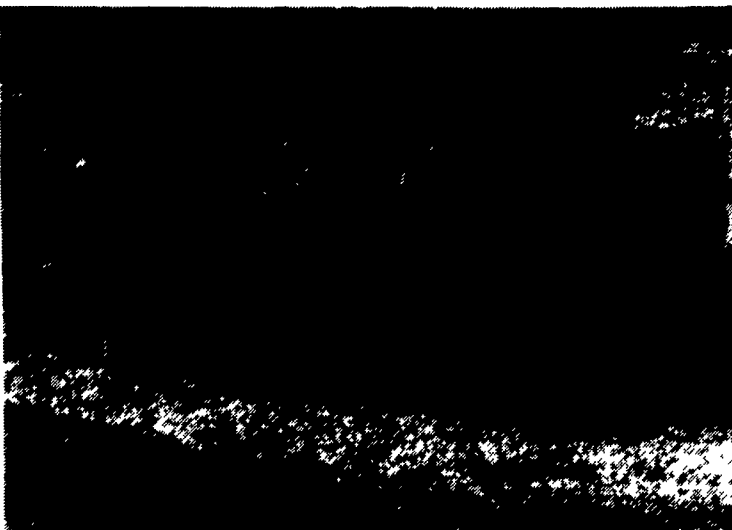
The primary objective of this plan is to develop and maintain "parasite-safe" pastures throughout an entire grazing season. This goal is easily accomplished by preventing pasture contamination through the shedding of worm eggs in feces during the first three months of the grazing season, thus presenting parasite build-up during the rest of the grazing season.

For a cow/calf producer, the simple, effective guidelines to follow are:

1) Deworm all animals at the end of the grazing season with a Class II dewormer (a dewormer that kills both mature and immature worms). The best time is after the first killing frost. Do this step now!

2) Again, using a Class II product, deworm all cattle in the cow/calf herd six weeks after grazing began in the spring (four weeks for a stocker grazing program).

That's it! A process that is simple, effective, and economically sound, considering parasitism costs beef producers from \$20 to \$200 per head. Properly designed cattle handling facilities are sure useful in getting this task accomplished. In many cases, your next question will be — what products should I use? Please consult with your extension agent, beef specialist, veterinarian, or animal health supplier, for this information.



A Gehl skid-steer loader forges through a muddy quarry on Trackman endless rubber tracks from Goodyear. Gehl recently joined the growing list of agricultural and industrial equipment manufacturers offering Trackman as original equipment or retrofit. Trackman provides better maneuverability, traction and less damage to terrain than wheeled vehicles, according to Goodyear.

## Gehl Offers Trackman On Skid-Steer Loaders

AKRON, Ohio — Farm and industrial equipment manufacturers are making tracks to a product that makes their equipment more maneuverable, versatile and environmentally friendly.

The Gehl Co. is the most recent addition to the growing list of equipment manufacturers to endorse and use Goodyear's Trackman endless rubber track. Gehl offers Trackman on its line of skid steer loaders.

Manufacturers endorsing Trackman as original equipment or as a retro-fit through their dealers are: J I Case, Melroe and Mustang.

"We also are working with a number of other manufacturers such as Kinze Mfg., Christianson Inc., Byron Enterprises, Kelderman, DeSheppers, Gilbert & Riplo and H&S Co.," said Rob Andrew, marketing specialist with Goodyear. "Goodyear's rubber track keeps their equipment on the job in conditions that would sideline conventionally wheeled vehicles."

Trackman fits over conventional rubber tires as a retrofit and is installed by letting air out of the tires, slipping the track onto the vehicle and reinflating the tires. It also can perform as either friction or positive drive on OEM undercarriages.

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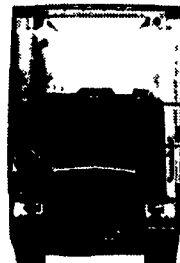


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