

PSEUDORABIES HEADLINE UPDATE

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

NATIONAL PSEUDORABIES ERADICATION PROGRAM PROGRESS IN PENNSYLVANIA

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Pennsylvania swine producers are poised to advance from Stage II (control) to Stage III (cleanup) in the national pseudorabies (PRV) eradication program.

Qualification of a state for Stage III status requires that no more than 1 percent of swine herds are infected, that random surveillance monitors at least 10 percent of the state breeding swine population annually, that transportation of swine is regulated to control the movement of infected or exposed swine, that infected swine are quarantined, and that the department is implementing mandatory herd cleanup procedures.

The number of herds quarantined because of PRV was reduced during 1994 to 74 herds from a high of 118 herds last January. Prevention of spread and reduction of pseudorabies virus appears to have been the result of intensive vaccine use in high PRV risk areas and rigorous culling of infected breeding animals by owners of infected herds.

Pseudorabies Stage III status is important to Pennsylvania swine producers because interstate commerce involving Pennsylvania swine is facilitated. As other states progress to Stage III and higher,

they restrict swine movements from states of lesser PRV eradication status.

Eradication of PRV from the United States will ultimately result in free movement of swine with minimal regulatory constraints and reduced PRV associated production costs. The Pennsylvania PRV Eradication Committee has set 1998 as the goal for Free State Status. Attainment of this goal will necessitate advancement to Stage III by July 1995, elimination of pseudorabies virus from Pennsylvania swine within two years, and keeping swine free of PRV for at least one year thereafter.

Stage III is the period of pseudorabies control effort most critical to the eradication program's ultimate success. It is essential that all infected and all exposed swine herds in the state are identified and that they all move in step toward elimination of the virus. The department will be monitoring within the next six months every swine herd in high risk areas and areas surrounding infected herds that have not been tested within 10 to 12 months. Owners of infected herds will be obligated by (pending) regulations to adopt plans for rapid elimination of the virus. Vaccination of PRV exposed swine will continue to be important until the last infected animal is gone.

Statewide surveillance of swine breeding herds to meet Stage III PRV prevalence requirements includes reliable identification of sows and boars to permit crediting negative as well as positive test results to the farm of origin. Similarly, reliable identification of feeder pigs is necessary to assure that exposed swine remain within permitted channels and that adequate biosecurity is maintained. Records must be kept of swine

Beef Expo Junior Events Planned

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The sixth annual Pennsylvania Beef Expo is scheduled for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 10-12 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

As in previous Beef Expos, a wide variety of activities for juniors, including heifer and steer shows, will be offered. This year, in response to requests by the

junior cattlemen after the 1994 Expo, junior show cattle will be received at the Farm Show Complex after 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 9.

The junior heifer and steer shows will begin at 8 a.m. on Sunday, March 12. Special junior activities will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 10 and 11. New activities tentatively scheduled include a safety clinic and demonstration, cattle behavior and handling exhibits, and cattle roping demonstrations. Back by popular demand will be the cattle obstacle course and the Beef Skillathon. The obstacle course consists of juniors leading their cattle through various obstacles such as water or railroad ties, fitting chutes, and loading/unloading in a cattle trailer.

The Beef Skillathon is also a competitive event where individual junior cattlemen or clubs test their knowledge about beef skills and management practices. According to Ray Grimes, Beef Expo Committee co-chairman and past president of the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association, "We are

further expanding the scope of the Expo junior activities. These activities are not only fun and educational for the juniors, they are quite entertaining and informative for anyone involved with animal agriculture."

There will be a Cattlemen's Trade Show on Friday and Saturday. More than 45 exhibitors of cattle equipment, supplies, and services are expected. Cattle sales are planned for Saturday, March 11, with additional breed sales still possible.

The annual Expo reception will be at 4:30 p.m. on Friday. A beef judging contest will be held at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 11, for juniors and junior clubs.

A special feature this year will be the Saturday night barn dance and party. Information on junior activities is available from Sue Clair, 568 Rock Road, State College, PA 16801, (814) 238-1233. General information is available from Glenn Eberly at the Expo office, located at 651 Fox Hollow Road, State College, PA 16801, (814) 865-5857.

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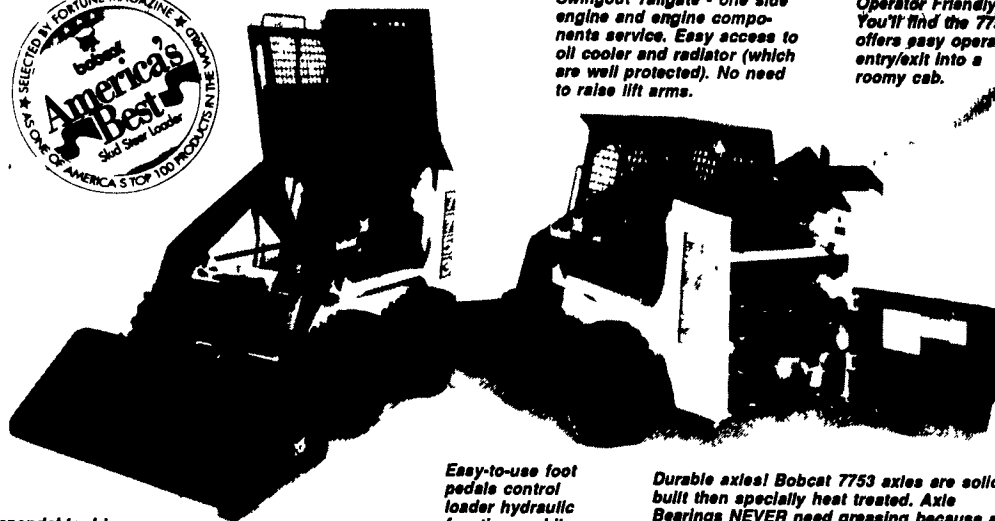
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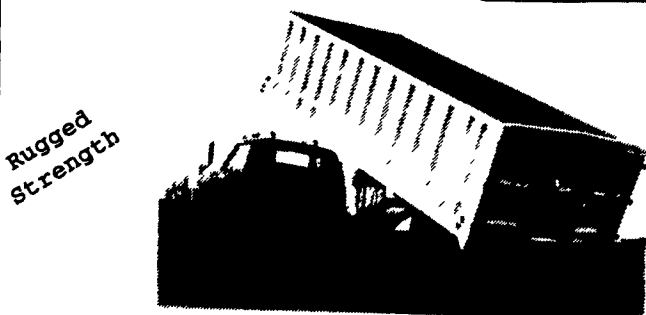
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