

# Beekeepers Must

## Register With State

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is reminding all beekeepers that they must register their apiaries with the Department.

"The state Agriculture Code has been amended to require apiary registration, no matter how small or large they are," said Jim Steinhauer, the Department's chief apiary inspector. "The registration system is designed to help the bee industry as well as individual beekeepers."

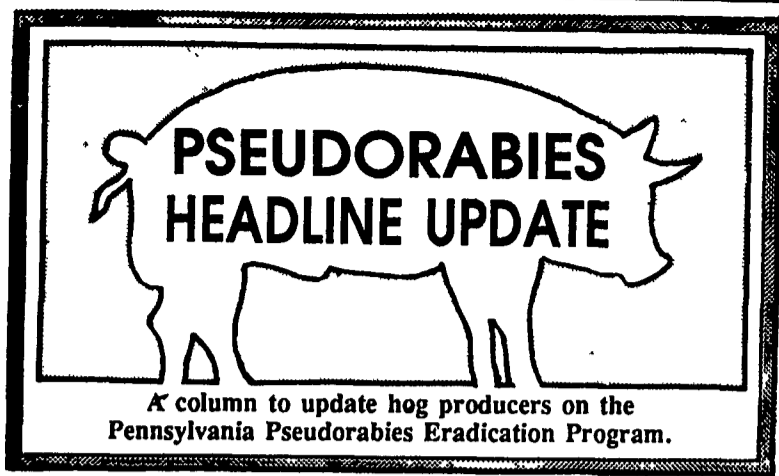
Registration forms have been mailed to all state beekeepers on the Department's current list. If you keep one or more hives of bees and have not yet received a registration form, contact the Department of Agriculture's Api-

ary Section by telephone, (717) 787-5609, or by mail 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408, to have a form sent to you.

A registration fee of \$10 per beekeeper, regardless of the number of apiaries owned, will register the beekeeper for up to two years.

Apiary registration has many benefits. These benefits include an ability to notify beekeepers of potential dangers and benefits to their apiaries, tracking of trends in the distribution of bees, pests and diseases, and an increase in efficiency of the bee inspection program.

The Agriculture Code's amendments also include an increase in fines and penalties for failure to register apiaries.



### WHAT CAN YOU DO IF PRV IS ON YOUR FARM?

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Elimination of a disease or diseases has been proven to be one of the most economical methods to reduce the cost of production within a swine unit. Continual vaccinations, additional medication costs, and increased mortality can continue to keep production costs above normal industry levels.

Each herd needs to complete a herd serological profile test to determine which diseases are present and to what extent they are present. With this information, plans can be developed to improve total herd health through adequate vaccination and biosecurity procedures.

Diseases are most commonly spread by pig-to-pig contact.

Therefore, disease control begins with dividing groups of animals in all phases of production by utilizing all-in/all-out production by air space.

Equally important, however, is a smooth pig flow. Pigs should never be moved backward within a production system. If this occurs, it presents the opportunity for chronic disease to be transferred from older to younger groups of pigs.

Cleaning and disinfecting pens and buildings between groups greatly reduces the possibility that an organism will build up and be transferred to the next group. Establish a daily work schedule for employees that permits them to work from the younger to the older pigs. Avoid moving from room to room more than necessary. Sanitation is a critical part of herd health security.

Prevention of environmental stress is extremely important, especially this time of year. Evaluate buildings for leaks and seal properly. Check ventilation equipment, since maintenance is cheaper than repair. This is especially true when you consider what environmental stress caused by a mechanical breakdown can do to performance and health care costs.

Another aspect of a good biosecurity program is reducing the risk of disease transmission within the herd. Footbaths cut the threat of health problems moving from room to room and building to building.

The addition of the new improved PRV vaccine has given added protection and control of PRV within the infected herds. Develop a vaccination protocol using periodic herd serology results to determine when and how frequently to utilize vaccine. The response seen in many herds using an adequate vaccination program demonstrates that this is a valuable tool for cleaning up PRV infections within the herd.

Breakdown of progress has been infrequent and is usually associated with excessive stocking density, inadequate ventilation, or failure to utilize adequate pig flow within the production unit. These herds are a small minority but do present a challenge in revising their procedures to ensure success in their eradication programs.

Results seen in the larger herds have been rather successful if proper procedures are followed. This seems to indicate that elimination of PRV can be accomplished in any size herd in Pennsylvania if the producer is willing and determined to see his efforts succeed.

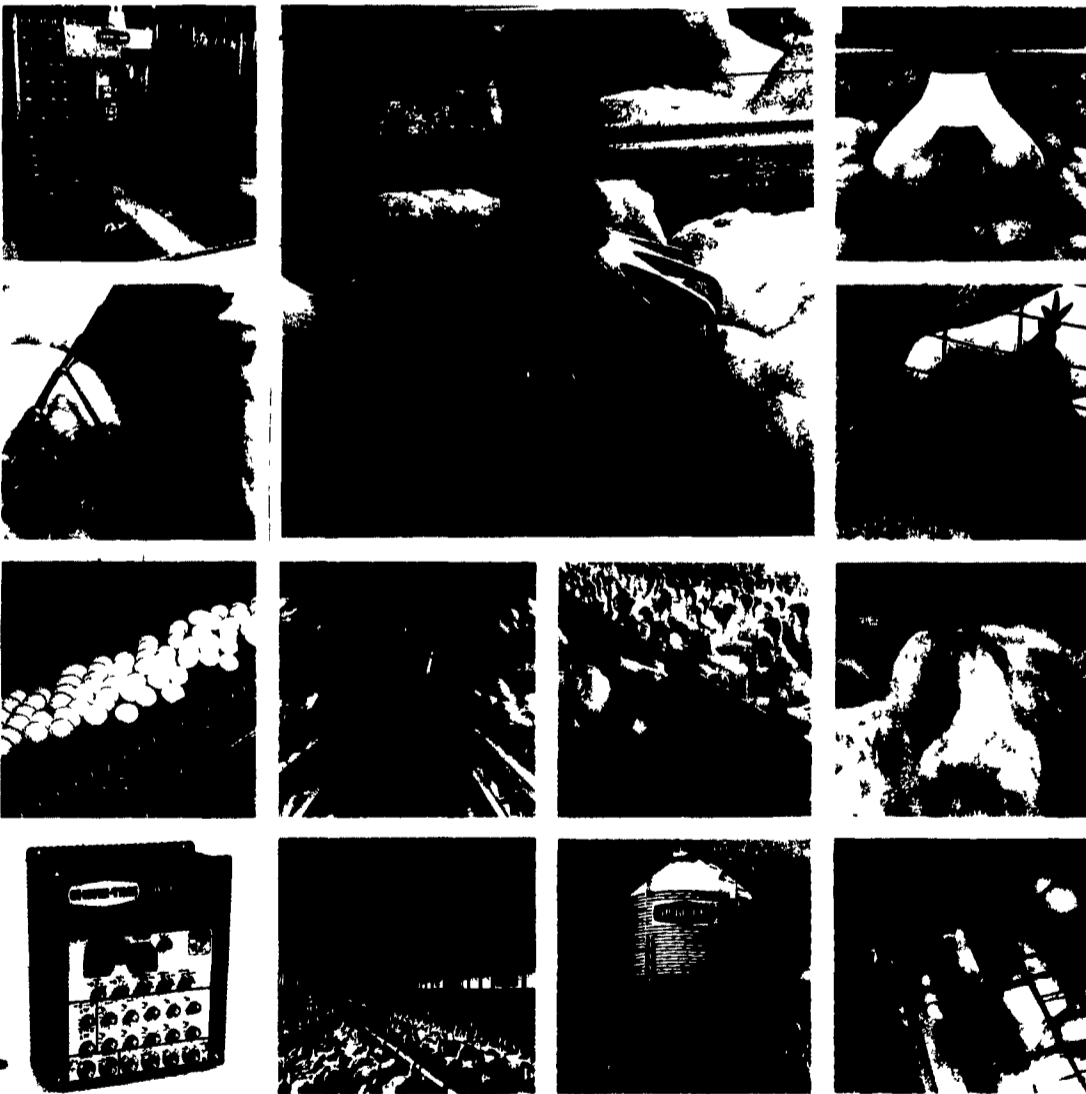
Periodic testing is needed to monitor herd progress. A producer has the option to follow the program through by allowing natural culling to eliminate older positive animals. The procedure can be accelerated by testing and removing positive animals after testing reveals only a small portion of older animals are positive. Thirty days after positive animals are removed, 30 animals or 30 percent, whichever is less, need to be tested at 90-day intervals for a total of three negative tests to remove the infected herd from quarantine.

After a herd has been successfully cleaned up, vaccination and yearly serological monitoring are still recommended in order to insure that infection has not recurred. Area vaccination continues to be important until all herds have been successfully cleaned up.

The past year has seen many herds eliminate PRV and indicates that it can be successfully completed with adequate herd serology, proper vaccination procedures, and proper pig flow. Any producer with solid goals and a program to eliminate PRV or other disease process within a production unit should realize improvement of the economic status of the production unit.

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